

THE TRAIL GUIDE



2012 EDITION » CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WORLD-CLASS GOLF



PROUD TO CALL ALABAMA HOME

For the past five years, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has been home to the Navistar LPGA Classic. And we at Navistar are thrilled to announce our return to the Senator Course at Capitol Hill in 2012. As the title sponsor of this annual event, Navistar remains committed to supporting and bringing about positive change to the Alabama River Region communities.

The 2011 tournament was a major success. Not only did we watch sixteen-year-old Lexi Thompson become the youngest winner in the 61-year history of the LPGA Tour, but together with the LPGA and all the great fans we were able to raise nearly \$100,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Many of our brave troops overseas hail from Alabama, and these contributions will go such a long way in helping our heroes readjust to civilian life back home, while also ensuring that the good work being done by the WWP continues.

We look forward to seeing you in Prattville this coming September for the 2012 Navistar LPGA Classic. For more information on the tournament and to reserve your tickets, please visit navistarlpgaclassic.com



*Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill. Senator Course.
Home of the 2012 Navistar LPGA Classic*

NAVISTAR
LPGA Classic



OFF THE TRAIL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HUBBARD · SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Greetings!

As Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our great state. We are proud to share with you the natural beauty Alabamians know and appreciate so well.

Perhaps what I like the most about the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is how the courses allow visitors to observe and enjoy Alabama's natural beauty. From the rolling plains at Grand National in Auburn/Opelika to the Gulf Coast charm of Point Clear's Grand Hotel and Golf Club, and from the winding river views in the Shoals to the breathtaking vistas at Capitol Hill in Prattville or Ross Bridge in Hoover, The Trail offers golfers a diversity of landscapes only available in Sweet Home Alabama.

Though I'm not a golfer myself, my two sons, Clayte and Riley, love to play the game. My wife, Susan, and I enjoy traveling to golf courses throughout the Southeast and the nation watching our sons play golf. Nowhere will you find more thrilling and challenging golf for a great price than on the 468 holes of championship golf on 11 different RTJ sites across Alabama.

By visiting Alabama, you become not only our honored guests, but a critical component of our economy. Tourism is a growing industry in Alabama, as travelers spent an estimated \$9 billion in our state in 2010.

After chasing that little white ball around, go relax on our beautiful Gulf Coast beaches, experience championship college football in Auburn or Tuscaloosa, or take in a show at the world-class Alabama Shakespeare Festival. If you have the need for speed, you'll have a hard time finding faster paced excitement than at a Talladega NASCAR race or at an Indy car race at Barber Motor Sports Park in Birmingham.

However you choose to spend your time, we're glad you chose to spend it in Alabama.

Sincerely,

Mike Hubbard
Speaker of the House

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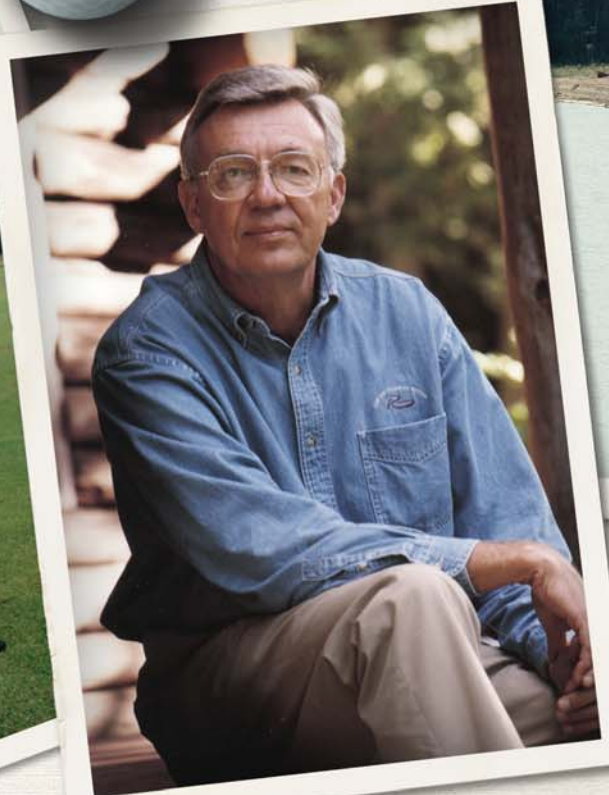
A detailed guide to all 11 sites on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer

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KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

by Jim Schenbach

RULEWICH SHARES INSIGHTS BEHIND THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL.

Golf course architect Roger Rulewich doesn't speak Portuguese but he's pretty good with the King's English, Alabama Edition.

Regardless, talking from Portugal, site of his most recent golf course project, Rulewich seemed overwhelmed when asked about Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. He paused, fumbling for words, his mind jumping backwards more than two decades -- to the late 1980s in Alabama, a state known for football, tourism, Gulf beaches, a promising industrial base, and mild weather. But golf?

Back then, as suddenly and decisively as a spear of lightning hurled from a dark Southern sky, Dr. David G. Bronner entered the Alabama golf picture and changed the state forever. Bronner is CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama. An unparalleled golf visionary,

he made sure there would be an intertwining of Rulewich the golf architect with Alabama the golf state.

The first courses on the RTJ Golf Trail opened in 1992, making 2012 the 20th anniversary of the Trail. The statewide network of courses now boasts 468 holes on 11 sites, most of these holes designed by Rulewich. For a humble man such as Rulewich, talking about himself is not the easiest task. Sometimes, however, the facts speak for themselves: Rulewich, representing famed architect Robert Trent Jones, got the Trail started by designing and completing 18 separate courses in a compressed period of two and a half years. That encompassed the Trail's first phase -- four 54-hole complexes and three 36-hole facilities. ...»



Previous page from left: Golf legend and Trail namesake, Robert Trent Jones, Sr.; Renowned golf course designer Roger Rulewich; Construction at Magnolia Grove; Magnolia Grove, Fall Course, No. 11.
Above: Nial Fraser, Director of Golf at Lakewood Golf Club (left), and golf architect Bobby Vaughn discuss the progress of the construction.

“It was seat-of-your-pants work,” Rulewich said. “Most of it was site design. We would drive from site to site, designing holes as we went. It might sound crazy, but it was the greatest way in the world to work. It was very free-form.” Rulewich, as it turned out, had the dogged personality and calm demeanor to handle this whirlwind project. Furthermore, he benefited greatly from having a responsive and flexible golf course construction firm owned by Jones.

Before the Trail, Alabama golf was overshadowed by neighbors like Florida, with more golf courses than any other state, and Georgia, home of Bobby Jones and the Masters. Quickly the landscape changed. Golfers from around the world now seek out Alabama. The state has a new identity. A remarkable transformation has occurred in 20 years. More than most, Rulewich is an international traveler who knows golf’s multi-lingual secret: No matter how you say it, golf is golf, with all its mysteries and temptations. Still, Rulewich reminisced, there is something special about golf in Alabama. Although other states have attempted to pursue the concept of a golf trail, not one has done it as visibly or successfully as Alabama.

It was Alabama that defined the career of Rulewich, although he accepts the reality that most golfers don’t associate his name with the RTJ Golf Trail. Jones was in his 80s as the Trail was taking shape. He made public appearances on behalf of the project, but the substantial leg work and design work was done by Rulewich, his protege. Rulewich worked 34 years for Jones, one of the icons of golf course design. Jones died in 2000 at the age of 93. Today Rulewich runs his own design firm, Rulewich & Fleury Golf Design, with associate David Fleury.

In Portugal, golfers know all about Alabama. Before Rulewich landed the Portugal job, his prospective employers flew to Alabama to inspect his golf courses. There were plenty of Rulewich courses to choose from. They liked what they saw, so it was no accident that Portugal and Alabama became linked on the global golf map. Rulewich is a fascinating man with fascinating stories about golf in Alabama. From his front-row seat, he was in a unique position to witness Alabama’s conversion to a golf colossus.

First, though, let’s separate the real golfers from the pretenders.

Real golfers have a passion for the game. Real golfers come in a range of handicaps and abilities, although one element is consistent -- they know and understand the irresistible thrills and unavoidable disappointments of golf.

Real golfers want to play challenging, interesting courses. To a real golfer, competing against his buddies on a memorable course can have all the intensity of a big tournament.

Real golfers love Alabama.

How do we explain the fact that the 10 millionth round will be played on the RTJ Golf Trail in 2012? The answer is simple: All the courses have their own distinctive personalities, they are fun to play, and they are affordable. If Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Terminator were a golfer, his parting line would change from “I’ll be back” to “I’ll be back tomorrow.”

That’s what Dr. Bronner had in mind. He wanted golfers to be tantalized so much that they couldn’t wait to return. More than half a million Alabama residents and visitors currently do just that each year, as the number of annual Trail rounds remains steady at about 550,000.

The stories about Dr. Bronner offer a glimpse into his vision for the Trail. Early in the design process, Rulewich was thinking, “We would make one course a little softer, a little easier. But that wasn’t the direction we got. I was a little taken aback.” Dr. Bronner to all concerned: “I want to be able to play a U.S. Open on any one of these courses we build. Make every one of them a championship course. I want people to be challenged enough that they want to come back and try it again.”

Of course, all real golfers know the importance of choosing the proper tees. At the RTJ Golf Trail, this is essential, and first-time players on any of the courses are advised to consult the professional staff about the various tees. That being said, let’s take a broad



Left: Hampton Cove before construction.
Below: Hampton Cove, Highlands Course, No. 5.



“I want to be able to play a U.S. Open on any one of these courses we build. Make every one of them a championship course. I want people to be challenged enough that they want to come back and try it again.”
 – Dr. David G. Bronner

look at some eye-popping maximum yardages. Instead of calling them the back tees, perhaps we should call them the Bronner tees.

From the back tees, the popular Judge Course at the Capitol Hill complex in Prattville measures 7,794 yards. And that makes it just the fourth longest of the Trail courses. Two courses exceed 8,000 yards. Nine are longer than 7,500 yards. U.S. Open, anyone?

Assuming that golfers play the correct tees, the variety of required shots is staggering. Players cannot avoid bumping into that old adage about using every club in the bag. This assortment of challenges reveals the essence of Alabama’s Golf Trail: Golfers are greatly tested without being discouraged. This is what Rulewich had in mind. He was handed what was largely an open slate, and he was able to design the courses without making room for houses.

Dr. Bronner was so persuasive that land for the Trail was donated. Some of it was park land, some was given by large corporations such as U.S. Steel, some came from developers who felt the presence of a state-owned golf course would enhance the value of nearby property.

“Some of the sites didn’t even have property boundaries until we were finished,” Rulewich said. “Everything was huge and large-scale.” State tourism, according to Dr. Bronner, has increased from less than \$2 billion before the Trail to more than \$9 million after the Trail. He asserts that golf has helped attract new industry to Alabama.

Rulewich, in his life before Alabama, left Yale University with a degree in civil engineering and took a job in New York City. Three years later, he heard of another job through the Yale Alumni Placement Service. Looking for an apprentice was a man named Robert Trent Jones. “Didn’t ring any bells for me,”

said Rulewich, who never played golf in his life until he went to Yale. “However, he convinced me to give it a try.”

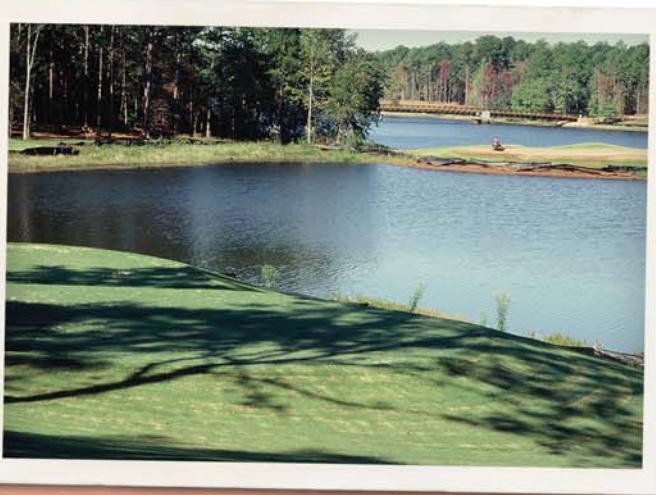
When Alabama told the world it wanted to build a string of golf courses, some designers sneered at the idea as being too grandiose and too costly. But the project had Alabama state pension funds behind it, and Rulewich regarded the concept with utter seriousness. After the Jones firm was awarded the job, Rulewich was aided at virtually every turn by Bobby Vaughan, former director of golf at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, N.C. Vaughan had been hired by the state of Alabama to find golf course sites and coordinate the construction. “Just the greatest guy in the world,” Rulewich said of Vaughan.

You’d say that, too, if somebody saved your life. During the project, Rulewich had a reservation on a flight from Mobile to Huntsville. The plane crashed, killing everyone aboard, although Rulewich never boarded because Vaughan made a last-minute decision to drive to Mobile and pick up his friend.

Call it fate. Call it providence. Somebody surely wanted him to finish Alabama’s gift to American golf, the RTJ Golf Trail. ■

Jim Achenbach is an associate editor of Golfweek Magazine and Golfweek.com, with headquarters in Orlando, Fla.

Below: Grand National during construction; Grand National, Lake Course, No. 15.



20 GOLF TIPS FOR PLAYING THE TRAIL



#1 The 17th hole (par 5) on the Senator Course at Capitol Hill is a most interesting hole that requires a golfer to think his/her way from tee to green, and if you’re not careful, you can walk off the 17th green with a big number on your scorecard! Proper course management is needed on this scenic hole! The tee shot needs to be comfortably positioned on the left-to-left-center portion of the fairway. The second shot is key, as picking out the correct line takes patience and courage, be it trying to go for the green, or laying up to your perfect yardage for the wedge approach. I’m sure many golfers have picked too aggressive of a line and ended up seeing their ball disappear into the ravine. For even the longer hitters, I think making this a three-shot par-5 is the smarter play, which allows a wedge shot into this small and well-protected green. A great closing hole for sure! — **Paula Creamer, LPGA Professional Golfer**

#2 Try to play at a different location on the Trail every time you visit. Each course is specifically designed to create a unique experience. The Trail challenges golfers to stretch their game whether it's playing the 4th longest course in the world at Ross Bridge or on the Senator course at Capitol Hill which manages to be challenging without a single tree. — **Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO, Retirement Systems of Alabama**



Above from top: Paula Creamer, LPGA Professional Golfer; RTJ Golf Trail visionary and CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama, Dr. David G. Bronner.

#3 The key to playing the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Senator course is to take aggressive lines off the tees when possible. This allows for short irons into difficult greens. — Lexi Thompson, 2011 Navistar LPGA Classic Champion, LPGA Professional Golfer

#4 Variety is a keynote of the Trail. Sites were chosen for their differences in terrain, vegetation and hazards. I think we succeeded in avoiding any repetition in the design. No two holes are look alikes thanks to the varied sites and treating each hole as a new canvas in the overall fabric of the layout. You can’t get a true sense of the Trail without seeing it all. — Roger Rulewich, Golf Course Designer

#5 Play one tee up from your normal yardage. The Trail has challenging golf courses! Play up one tee the first time around. You will enjoy it more. — Mike Beverly, Director of Golf, Capitol Hill

#6 I have found in playing the RTJ golf courses that you have to be very precise with where you hit it on the greens. This I have found has always been the hardest part of the golf courses. If you are able to place the ball on the right spot on the greens then you will have a lot of birdie chances. But on the other hand, if you put it on the wrong place on the greens then a par will be a lot of work! — Maria Hjorth, 2011 Avnet LPGA Classic Champion, LPGA Professional Golfer

Below from top: Cambrian Ridge, Short Course, No. 4;
Morgan Pressel, LPGA Professional Golfer.



#8 I think one of the most important things about trail courses is research! Make sure you know where the pin is, and where the best place to play your next shot is from. The greens are very large and undulating, and you can end up with a bogey or worse very quickly if you're on the wrong side of the pin! But if you can manage your golf ball, you will have good chances to make birdies! — **Morgan Pressel, LPGA Professional Golfer**



#9 Good iron play is crucial. Our greens can be treacherous if you get on the wrong level. Missing the green on the wrong side can be deadly to your score as well. — **Jason Harris, Director of Golf, Highland Oaks**

#10 When playing a Trail course, always pay attention to hole location. Trail greens are typically very large and depending on hole location the yardage difference may be up to 25 yards from front to back. — **Paul Martino, Director of Golf, Magnolia Grove**

#11 All hazards are played as lateral hazards where you can drop within two club lengths of where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard. — **Chip Purser, Director of Golf, Ross Bridge**

#7 It doesn't matter what type of golfer you are, whether you like long drives or favor your short game, the Trail offers a course that suits you. Multiple sites have a variety of 9-hole courses that allow you to create your own 18-hole course for the day. Our short courses are some of the best in the country and serve to test your game in a different way. — **John Cannon, President, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail**

#12 My golf tip for the average golfer is to forget about how you look swinging a club or how far you hit it or if you hit a bad shot. Just have fun. If your attitude is one that is grateful for the opportunity to play golf and enjoy being outside, then you will play better. Some people tighten up worrying about how they look in front of their playing partner and it actually hurts their game. Loosen up and have fun! — **Brittany Lincicome, LPGA Professional Golfer**



#13 The Silver Lakes Mindbreaker course is shorter than the Heartbreaker and Backbreaker, but it will live up to its name and mess with your mind. Manage your approach shots on this course because they are at a premium. — **Jason Callan, Director of Golf, Silver Lakes**

#14 Water and bunkers guard pretty much every hole on the Fighting Joe course at The Shoals. Players on this course should focus on the widest part of the fairway. Despite the hazards around every hole, you still have plenty of room off of every tee box. — **Wesley Smith, Assistant Golf Professional, The Shoals**

#15 After holing out, always remember to look back to the tee when finishing a hole. You will get a new appreciation of how beautiful the holes are. — **Jim Perkins, RTJ Golf Trail Facebook Fan**

#16 Understanding the grain in the greens is very important. The grain goes to the setting sun in the Southwest. If you are into the grain, play twice the break and play dead weight. If you are down-grain, play less break and watch your speed. — **Niall Fraser, Director of Golf, Lakewood Golf Club**

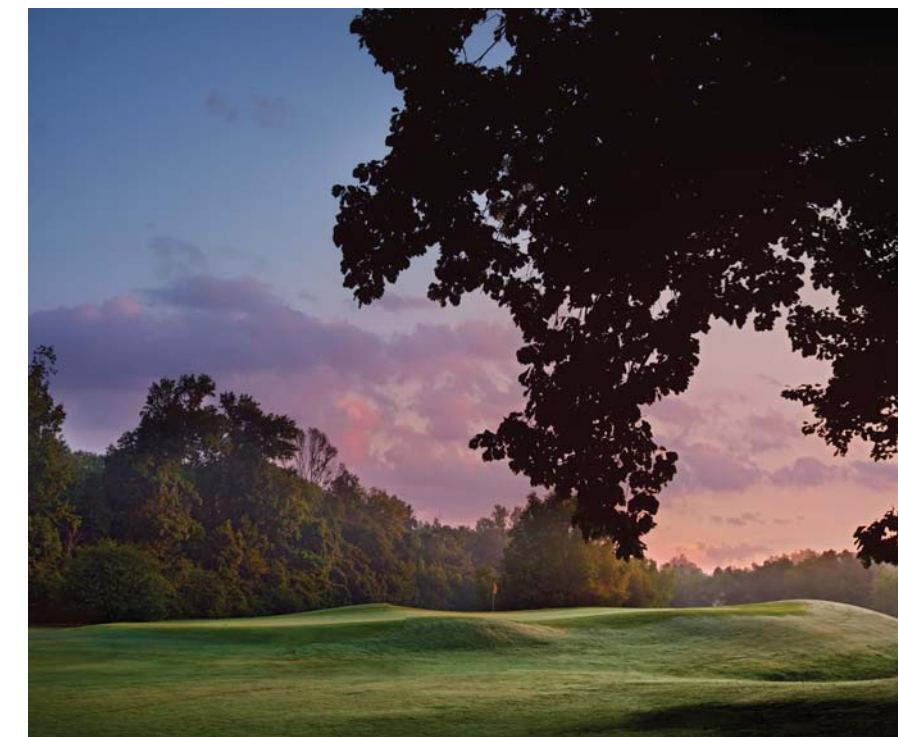
#17 When playing Cambrian Ridge, your tee shot may be your most important shot. Attack the 150 marker with your tee shot. Don't get greedy and try to cut corners. — **Bryan Reynolds, Director of Golf, Cambrian Ridge**

#18 The greens on the River course at Hampton Cove are elevated to keep them out of potential flood waters, making the course very challenging. Make sure that your approach shots do not come up short to the elevated greens. — **Landon Lomax, Head Golf Professional, Hampton Cove**

#19 On the Lake course at Grand National, the 13th hole is a par-4 388-yard dogleg left with fairway bunker on left and a drop-off on the right. The best play is to drive right of the bunker (long hitters may play over the bunker). To carry the bunker, it's 220 yards and the front edge of the bunker is 183 yards. — **Scott Gomberg, Director of Golf, Grand National**

#20 When playing an approach shot, narrow your focus to the segment of the green you are trying to hit. Just the size of the greens can make your focus fuzzy and blurred, so really direct your eyes to the area you want your ball to go and try not to get distracted. When you hit the correct segment, the ball will often feed towards the hole, so the rewards can be well worth the extra focus. — **Neil Thompson, Director of Instruction, RTJ Academy of Golf at Oxmoor Valley**

Above: Brittany Lincicome, LPGA Professional Golfer.
Below: Hampton Cove, River Course, No. 4.





Lexi 101

(TEENAGER MAKES GOLF HISTORY *at* NAVISTAR LPGA CLASSIC)

Lexi Thompson became the youngest winner in the 61-year history of the LPGA Tour by capturing a five-shot victory at the Navistar LPGA Classic. Thompson, who was 16 years, 7 months and 8 days old on the day of her victory shot a final round 2-under 70 to help secure her victory at -17. Lexi went on to petition the LPGA for membership and became the youngest member in LPGA history, being admitted at the age of 16.

Tiffany Joh finished second at the Navistar LPGA Classic with 12-under-par. Before Thompson's win, Marlene Hagge had held the distinction as the youngest winner on the LPGA Tour. Hagge was 18 years, 14 days when she won the 1952 Sarasota Open, which was an 18-hole event. Hagge won two 18-hole events at the age of 18. The youngest winner of a multi-round event on the LPGA Tour was Paula Creamer, who captured the 2005 Sybase Classic when she was 18 years, 9 months and 17 days.

Thompson is no stranger to breaking records. In 2007, she became the youngest person to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open at the age of 12. That same year she won the Westerfield Junior PGA Championship to become the youngest winner in Junior PGA Championship history.

Golfing is a way of life in the Thompson family. Lexi's oldest brother Nicholas, 28, is a member of the Nationwide Tour and spent the past three years on the PGA Tour. Her other brother Curtis, is on the Louisiana State University men's golf team and her father, Scott, was her caddie at the Navistar LPGA Classic on the RTJ Senator Course.

"Just being there with my dad was great," said Lexi Thompson. "Dad said, Lexi, just enjoy that walk," Thompson said of coming up the 18th to a huge ovation from the crowd. "He told me, 'I am

going off to the side because I might cry.' You know, I definitely cried after I finished. Just finishing that with my dad on the bag, it was the best experience. I wouldn't be out here without my dad and my mom, of course."

Thompson, who carried a five-stroke lead into Sunday's final round, held steady for the majority of the day on the course. She went through one tough stretch when she made two straight bogeys on No. 11 and 12. But the 16-year-old held her composure as her lead was cut to three shots making back-to-back birdies on No. 16 and 17 to increase her lead back to five shots heading into the 18th hole. After just missing her birdie putt that would have given her four straight rounds in the 60s, Thompson tapped in her par putt to complete her impressive victory and during the trophy presentation, Thompson announced that she will donate \$20,000 of her \$195,000 first-prize check to the tournament's official charity, The Wounded Warrior Project.

Following the tournament, Thompson made appearances on NBC's Today Show, the CBS Morning Show and CNN. She also appeared on the cover of several national golf magazines, in the New York Times and other newspapers around the world. ...»

LPGA ON THE TRAIL IN 2012

MOBILE BAY
LPGA CLASSIC »
April 22 - 29

NAVISTAR LPGA
CLASSIC »
September 17 - 23

Below: Lexi Thompson, 2011 Navistar LPGA Classic Champion and LPGA Professional Golfer.



“Getting a win right now, I can’t describe the feelings, but it’s the best feeling ever.”

Q&A WITH LEXI THOMPSON AFTER WINNING THE NAVISTAR LPGA CLASSIC

Q: You became the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history today. Tell us your thoughts on that, and what this whole experience has been like for you.

A: It’s been an amazing experience for me. I can’t even describe the feelings that were going through my head this whole week. I look forward to this tournament every year. The course is in amazing shape for us, so this was the best experience.

Q: Every little girl who grew up and played golf dreams of winning on the LPGA Tour. What does it feel like to have that dream come true?

A: It feels amazing. I can’t even describe it. It’s been my dream my whole life just to play out here. Getting a win right now, I can’t describe the feelings, but it’s the best feeling ever.

Q: You are the youngest winner, but probably in your mind this win was overdue given how you contended here two years ago and took a lead into the final day earlier this year. In your mind, did this feel like it had taken a long time to happen?

A: Sort of, but I just went to every tournament wanting to win. Obviously you’re not going to win everything and you’ll have bad tournaments. You just got to keep on plugging along and take one shot at a time. That’s all you can do, just live in that moment.

Q: Since you won, will you come back to the Navistar LPGA Classic?

A: Of course. I love this tournament. Why wouldn’t I come back? I love this tournament. It’s amazing.

Q: How many tournaments does your mother go to, if at all? And would you like her to come out here and see you every now and then for something like this? Does the thought of having her here come up with you in contention like this?

A: I definitely wanted her to be here. She didn’t even watch. She didn’t watch any live scoring or anything on TV. She usually comes to the Open; she went to the LPGA Championship; she went to ShopRite. So she was like, I’m not watching you the whole day. I watched you one hole yesterday and you bogeyed it. I’m like, Okay mom.Okay. But I really do wish she was here. She watched the last

hole today and that’s it. I called her after. She was so excited. She was screaming. She obviously knew I won. She was like, Oh, my God I’m so proud of you. You know, typical stuff. She was screaming. I was like, all right.

Q: Also the Wounded Warriors, you decided to make a contribution with your winnings. Talk about what motivated you on that end.

A: Well, I think they deserve it. They give up their lives for us, you know, saving our country. I wore the pin every day. Donating to them is just what you have to do. I mean, look what they do for us. It’s just amazing that they do that. I definitely want to give back.

Q: Two years ago when you were 14, we talked to your dad each day during the tournament. At the end of it, he said, We’re going to start looking for someone to carry your clubs. Now, how long do you want him to continue to do that, and do you see that going on for a little while yet?

A: Probably still for a little bit. We’ve gotten along a lot better on the golf course. I will say that. We used to fight a good amount. Now it’s just so much more calm. We get along a lot better. I’m not sure. We’ll probably be looking for someone eventually, but probably not right now.

Q: What was the difference, do you think, in today and the times when you held the lead and couldn’t hang on?

A: I think I just took it a lot more slowly today. Just stayed really calm. You know, I probably got a little fast at Avnet or here last year when I was leading. So I just slowed down my walking and just relaxed and just free swing.

Q: On the one end there’s a lot of really established golfers here. What’s the kindest or most flattering words any of them have spoken to you since you won this tournament?

A: Well, they all said, great job afterwards. Paula Creamer came up to me and said, If anybody was to change the record, it was you, and it should’ve been you. That meant a lot. And that I deserve it. So it definitely meant a lot to me.

Q: What do you think about the “Will You Marry Me” sign?

A: I heard about it but didn’t see it. I actually got a tweet yesterday saying Lexi, will you marry me. Not sure who it was. Just joking I said like, I do. But it’s great to have all these fans out here. If it wasn’t for them these tournaments wouldn’t go along. Having the little girls out here just looking up to me, that’s what I’ve always wanted. I just want to portray to them that I’m following my dreams. ■

BIRDIES *for a* CAUSE

The 2011 Navistar LPGA Classic went above and beyond to help raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. The par-3 16th was designated as the “military hole”. Navistar donated \$100 for every birdie made on this hole during the tournament to the Wounded Warrior Project. In the past four years, the hole averaged 83 birdies. In addition, a member of the military was on the green to tend the flag during tournament play.

During Sunday’s final round, the 16th hole notched 25 birdies which raised \$2,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Over the course of the four-day event, a total of 97 birdies were made on the hole. Rolex Rankings No. 4 Na Yeon Choi hit a hole-in-one on the 16th during Sunday’s final round, holing out with a 9-iron from 136 yards, and earning an additional \$1000 for the effort. So the total donation for the week was \$10,700. Overall, the tournament raised more than \$90,000 for this worthwhile cause. ■

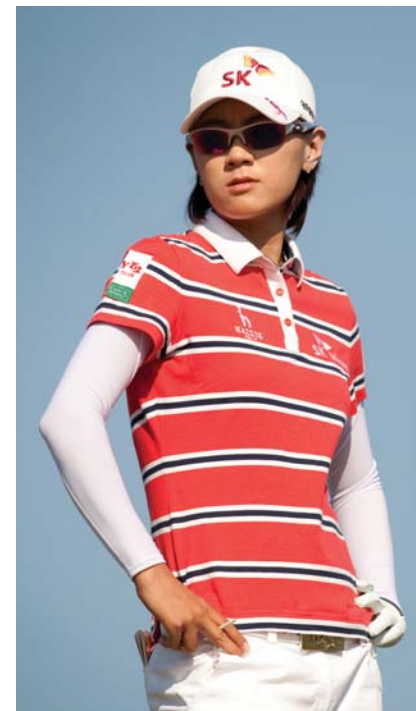
MOBILE’S LPGA GETS A NEW YORK *state of mind.*

The LPGA and Mobile, Alabama, have a deep history. But in 2012, the Mobile event might take on a slightly Northern accent. To be held April 23 – 29, 2012, on the Crossings Course at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, the LPGA tournament will be sponsored by 55 Water, the largest commercial office building in New York City. The building is owned by the Retirement Systems of Alabama and houses tenants from around the world.

“This sponsorship gives us a great opportunity to market 55 Water nationally and internationally,” said Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

“More than half of the LPGA viewership on the Golf Channel is international business leaders. This media exposure will make business leaders aware of 55 Water even before they have their staff look for property in New York. The overall message will be when looking for office space in New York, think 55 Water.”

At 54 stories and 3.8 million square feet, 55 Water Street is the second largest privately owned office building in the country and is situated on 3.7 acres. It boasts multiple open spaces that enhance the quality of life in Lower Manhattan. For more information visit www.55water.com.



Above: Na Yeon Choi, LPGA Professional Golfer.

Below Left: Maria Hjorth, 2011 Avnet LPGA Classic Champion and LPGA Professional Golfer.

changing the IMAGE, ATTITUDE & *PERCEPTION* of ALABAMA

THE TRAIL HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE IN EXPANDING THE STATE INTO
A \$10 BILLION TOURIST DESTINATION • BY MARK PAZDUR

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a shining example of a successful, well executed private/public partnership. Its 26 courses, at 11 different sites scattered around the state, stretch for 400 miles from the rolling hills in northern Alabama to the coastal plains in the south.

Twenty years ago, Alabama faced an identity crisis. For most Americans, it was considered nothing more than a state to pass through while traveling from one destination to another. The selection of first-rate hotels and golf facilities were few and far between. Research revealed that 74 percent of motorists driving through Alabama had no intention of stopping.

A DECISION THAT TOUCHED THE STATE

In 1973, Dr. David G. Bronner became the CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) with a \$500 million fund to manage the pensions for 330,000 public employees and retirees in the State of Alabama.

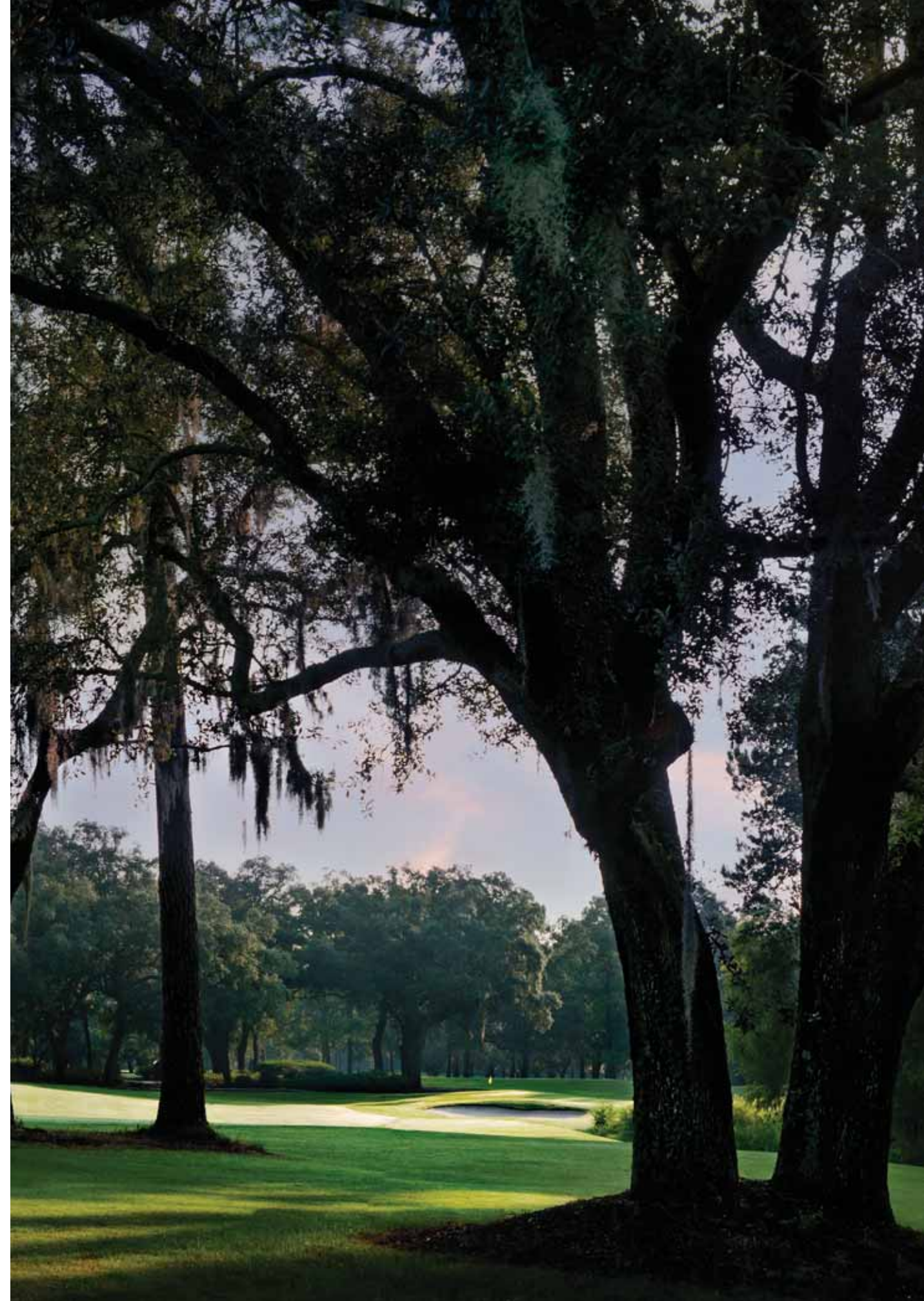
"I worked my way through college and didn't have much freedom to play golf," explained Bronner. "While I was earning my Ph.D. and Law degrees at the University of Alabama, I had a little more down time and would tee it up from time to time.

"I always thought being a golfer was an advantage in business," said Bronner. "Where else but on a golf course can you have five hours of face time with a client."

In the late 1980s, Bronner was considering investing RSA funds into redeveloping an abandoned US Steel facility into a public golf course.

"I am not one to sit on my hands," reported Bronner. "I like to keep the process moving. Negotiations bogged down with US Steel and word leaked to the press that I might be interested in building a public golf facility. Before I knew it, every mayor in the state was calling me. It was a bit overwhelming.

Right: Lakewood Golf Course,
Azalea Course, No. 1



»»» “We are proud to have **EIGHT HOTELS** on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, **INCLUDING FOUR OF OUR TOP 10 GOLF LOCATIONS.** As one of the legendary and **MOST RESPECTABLE NAMES IN THE SPORT**, golfers come from all over the world to play the courses along the Trail.” «««
— J. W. “**BILL**” MARRIOTT, CEO, MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL



Above: Capitol Hill, Legislator Course, No. 3 **Right:** Shoals, Fighting Joe Course, No. 18



“I asked the mayor of Mobile to ask the Commission to invite us to Mobile, which they did,” continued Bronner. “Then, immediately, Birmingham decided to go. We were off to the races.”

CONCEPT TURNS TO REALITY

Dr. Bronner was ready to commit to building a course in Birmingham, but needed advice from an industry insider. He turned to Bobby Vaughan, who had successfully launched several high profile golf facilities in the South.

“David and I have become very good friends over the years,” said Vaughan. “I remember one of our meetings took place as we were touring a golf course in North Carolina in a Jeep. It had just rained and mud was flying everywhere.”

Bronner challenged Vaughan whether it was possible to build a quality golf course, offer it to the public at an affordable price, and earn a return for the RSA.

“What would it cost to build a superior course that residents from other states would want to play?” inquired Bronner.

“About \$5-10 million per site, depending on the scope of the project,” responded Vaughan.

“Let’s do it right, and expand the footprint,” said Bronner. “Let’s build a golf trail throughout the state.”

From that meeting, the groundwork was laid for what would become the most ambitious golf construction project in America, even to this day.

GREAT IDEAS WITHOUT MONEY ARE JUST GREAT IDEAS

“I was a good little bureaucrat and sent out RFPs [request for proposals] to all the famous golf course architects. I received letters back from everyone, but only Robert Trent Jones took the time to pick up the phone and call me,” recalled Bronner.

“Jones inquired, ‘Are you serious?’

“I invited him out for a look and after a fair amount of back and forth negotiations and discussions, we agreed to a contract,” confirmed Bronner.

The bold project did have its skeptics. At the time, the largest golf project in America was three golf courses that took seven years to complete. Bronner wanted his team to complete triple the number of courses in half the time.

In January 1990, dirt started flying on the same day at five locations. By the end of the year, construction had started on 18 courses around the state

with a \$100 million investment to turn the “Heart of Dixie” into a world-class golf destination. The invasion of earth moving equipment was tantamount to a D-Day invasion of bulldozers.

As promised, the first course (Oxmoor Valley in Birmingham) opened on time in May of 1992.

The investment today is closer to \$200 million; add in the hotels, it would be in the \$500-\$600 million range.

“Twenty states have tried to copy our business plan, but most are nothing more than marketing gimmicks. No one has come close to topping Alabama,” proudly roared Bronner. “Our state now offers some of the very best golf, spas, and resorts anywhere, and at what you would consider ‘blue collar’ prices. The Trail has exceeded our loftiest expectations.”

OVERACHIEVED IN EVERY CATEGORY

The Trail was built to provide a return on investment for the RSA, help expand tourism, recruit new industry to the state, and attract retirees. The end result has been an overall strengthening of the state’s economy while adding to the quality of life for all Alabamians.

“The stronger the RSA can make Alabama, the stronger the RSA will be,” vaulted Bronner. “The Trail has generated a return for the Retirement Systems between two and four percent per year and helped build our worldwide reputation. Tourist dollars spent in the state have risen from \$1.8 billion in 1990 to a projected \$9.8 billion this year. But, probably the greatest impact the RTJ Trail has had on Alabama is its impact on industrial recruiting. In the last two decades, our state has landed a Mercedes plant and hundreds of Asian manufacturers. The list is a mile long!” reported Bronner. “As our industrial base has expanded, the average wage of our citizens has ticked up. These are good paying jobs we are attracting.

“We have gone from literally no hotels worthy of your entertainment dollars to some of the very best in the world. For example, *Condé Nast Traveler* has awarded the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear as one of the top 125 golf resorts,” said Bronner. “Our state is now a ‘top 5’ market for avid golfers. The Trail has really changed the dichotomy of the state.” ■

Mark Pazdur is Publisher of Executive Golfer. Reprinted with permission from Executive Golfer.



Left: This steel girder was found wrapped around a tree several yards from the maintenance building. The building was destroyed by the tornado.

Back from the brink & **BETTER** THAN EVER

----- BY AL MUSKEWITZ

THAT WAS THE PROMISE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL OFFICIALS MADE SHORTLY AFTER A HIGH-POWERED TORNADO TORE THROUGH SILVER LAKES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IN APRIL, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY DELIVERED WHEN THE COURSE REOPENED IN SEPTEMBER.

The Northeast Alabama jewel in the Trail's crown took a direct hit from the massing storm, which stayed on the ground all day and laid waste to a nearly 200-mile swath of destruction from one end of the state's I-20/59 corridor to the other.

Facing an uncertain future at first, the 36-hole facility has risen from the rubble—with a dramatically different look than when it first opened in 1993 and even more resolve to provide the first-class experience golfers have come to expect from the Trail's offerings.

"To know we have come full circle is a victory," Silver Lakes director of golf Jason Callan said.

"We have taken a very difficult situation and made it as good as we possibly can," added Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama and founder of the Trail.

The comeback of Silver Lakes is a story of dedication and commitment, not only to the facility but to the community that connects to it.

THE COMEBACK OF
SILVER LAKES IS A
STORY OF DEDICATION
AND COMMITMENT,
NOT ONLY TO THE
FACILITY BUT TO THE
COMMUNITY THAT
CONNECTS TO IT.

On the afternoon of April 27, an EF4 tornado ripped through Etowah and Calhoun counties like a 9-iron cutting through light rough and took dead aim at Silver Lakes. The next day, the scene was grim.

The maintenance building and equipment within were completely obliterated. Several homes in the adjacent subdivision were destroyed or severely damaged. Tree loss across the 700-acre tract was estimated at between 30,000 and 100,000. The clubhouse sustained damage, but was otherwise spared and shortly resumed its function as an entertainment hub. Overall damage estimates were placed in the millions of dollars.

“We really didn’t know what was going to happen,” Callan said. “I would never presume to speak for Dr. Bronner, but he had to be somewhat overwhelmed when he saw (the magnitude of the damage) for the first time.”

Bronner described the devastation as “massive.” There was some consideration given to abandoning the project altogether, leaving the Trail without a presence in Northeast Alabama and a void in its corporate footprint. But moved by the outpouring of support from local civic leaders and golfers and understanding the importance of the locale to the RSA, the Trail’s vision and the community, Bronner remained committed to bringing it back.

“(The RSA) could not abandon or walk away from the people of this wonderful part of the state,” he said.

But some hard decisions still had to be made. Every hole on the Mindbreaker, Heartbreaker and Backbreaker 9s and Short Course took some type of damage.

The challenge for Roger Rulewich, the design mind behind the Trail’s original construction, was to bring back the course, which he called “probably the strongest collection of golf holes of anywhere on the Trail,” while maintaining the integrity of the original design that brought the Jones philosophy of “Hard Par, Easy Bogey” to life. From the tips, the Heartbreaker/Backbreaker combination is one of the most challenging 18s in the country.

The trouble was dealing with the loss of so many trees that, while not coming into play on most holes, provided the intimacy that made each hole an arena unto itself.

Replacing the trees was not even considered by Rulewich; in fact, several that weren’t damaged but seemed out of place where they stood were removed.

As a result, vast stretches of previously tree-covered land lay bare, to be replaced with sprawling areas of fescue, bahia and other native grasses that should be fully engaged when the 2012 season begins.

“The storm didn’t do us any favors, but there were so many good things that came out of it,” Rulewich said. “When they called me in, it was like, ‘Gee, where do we put the trees back?’ and I told them I don’t think they should and they’d be better off for it.

“Silver Lakes is not a tight golf course—it stretches a lot of acreage—that’s why the best part of the program was letting them know they didn’t have to put everything back the way it was. They could accept it and accept the new look and in many ways it’d be more attractive.”

The actual changes made to the golf course were relatively modest. Bunkers were strategically placed on some holes where other defensive elements were lost, but the most intensive changes were made on the Heartbreaker’s two par-5s.

The iconic tree-topped mound that split the fairway on No. 1 was pulled back toward the green and replaced by a yawning bunker on the right side. On 7, the hazard guarding the left side was cleared and three lakes installed forward of the tee area.

The refurbishing hasn’t changed the playability of the course; it just makes you think a little more around it. After the cleanup, the course has morphed into a links-parkland hybrid that expands across all three nines. It has even more breathtaking views of the Appalachian foothills and revealed heretofore hidden elevation changes that now bring the wind into play.

“It feels like we’re playing on a links course with hills,” local golfer Andrew Tyson said after previewing the course prior to its public opening. “I just can’t believe how much of the course you can see from any point.”

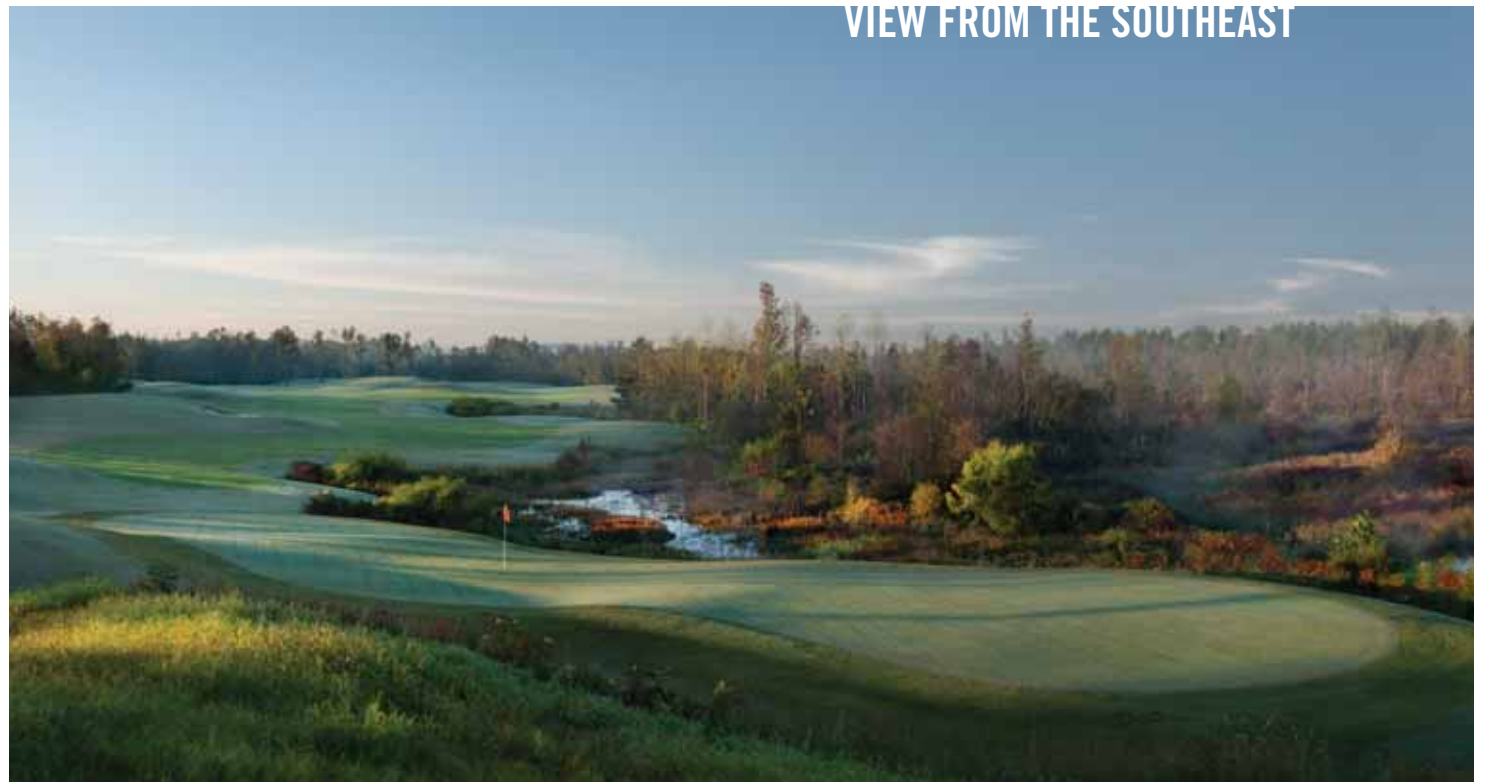
While the cleanup and restoration was taking places, all 36 greens on the property were regrassed with Champion Ultra Dwarf Bermuda and some of the undulations softened. Cart paths have been rerouted or built on numerous holes for easier access to the tees and greens. The response has been positive.

“Everyone involved in the project now believes this golf course is going to be prettier than it probably was before,” said John Cannon, president of the Trail’s SunBelt Golf management company. “It’s going to be special, I think. It’s going to be fun.” ■

Al Muskewitz is still finding making par a challenge at Silver Lakes while he covers golf and other sports for The Anniston (Ala.) Star.



VIEW FROM THE NORTHWEST



VIEW FROM THE SOUTHEAST

Above: These two photographs represent a 180 degree view at the No. 7 hole on the Backbreaker course.



RTJ RESORTS' LUXURY AND VALUE SHOWCASED

apples to apple\$

IN PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL RANKINGS

When naming the “75 Best Golf Resorts in North America,” *Golf Digest* magazine had 1,000 course-ranking panelists evaluate each golf resort’s overall quality, not strictly its golf course or courses. Pebble Beach, The Cloister, Greenbrier, Broadmoor, Pinehurst, and countless Ritz-Carltons and Four Seasons all made the list, as expected. However, so did Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. All are exceptional golf resorts – without question. Now look at the average room rates each resort provided and eyebrows start to rise.

- » PEBBLE BEACH RESORT/INN AT SPANISH BAY - \$615 per night
- » SEA ISLAND RESORTS, THE CLOISTER & THE LODGE - \$525 per night
- » THE GREENBRIER - \$359 per night
- » THE BROADMOOR - \$360 per night
- » PINEHURST RESORT - \$340 per night
- » RITZ-CARLTON, HALF MOON BAY - \$545 per night
- » FOUR SEASONS RESORT JACKSON HOLE - \$625 per night
- » **RENAISSANCE ROSS BRIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA - \$189 per night**





Previous page: Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. **Clockwise from left:** The spa at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa; The Performing Arts Centre at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center; The Harbor Room restaurant at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel; The AAA Four-Diamond restaurant, The Trellis Room, at The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa.



Golf Digest certainly was not the only national magazine looking to rank resorts on quality for the benefit of their readers. When *Conde Nast Traveler* named its Readers Choice Awards, the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa was listed for the second year in a row as one of the top resorts in the world. *Travel + Leisure* magazine has been a fan of the RTJ Golf Trail and its Resorts. The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa was ranked one of the “Top 500 Hotels in the World” for 2011 and highlighted as a great value. Renaissance Ross Bridge and the Battle House Hotel both are alumni of this world ranking, as well.

Apples to apples. Oranges to oranges. However you look at it, the hotels and resorts on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail have been compared to the top hotels and resorts around the world. Below is more information on all eight and we ask you to take a look for yourself in planning your next golf trip. The Resort Collection features six Four Diamond hotels, two Four Diamond restaurants and some of the finest spas in North America. For meetings, the Resort Collection has 322,500 square feet of meeting space inside plus more than 1,000 acres outdoors. Select from numerous restaurants and bars, enjoy luxury suites or stay in affordable guest rooms with some of the best bedding you can imagine. We encourage you to compare for yourself. Information on each of the eight hotels is below and also can be found online at www.pchresorts.com. Each hotel also has Facebook and Twitter sites.

MOBILE BAY REGION

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa

Point Clear, Alabama www.marriottgrand.com
www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel
www.twitter.com/marriottgrand

Since 1847, The Grand has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. The Grand Hotel consistently receives the AAA Four Diamond Award and is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 164 years young. In 2011, the Grand Hotel was named one of the Top 500 Hotels in the world by *Travel + Leisure*. Last year, the resort received national honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Successful Meetings* and *Meetings South*. A schedule of activities and special weekends is particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott’s best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. A \$50 million renovation on The Grand was completed in 2003 and again in 2006. The Dogwood and Azalea golf courses were renovated in 2005. Once restricted, these golf courses are now open to Grand Hotel guests and the general public.

The resort has 37,000 square feet of meeting space that was completely renovated in 2006. All guest rooms were updated in 2010. The Grand’s 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches and lush landscaping. A military salute and cannon firing takes place each day at 4:00 p.m. and is followed by afternoon tea in the hotel lobby. In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000-square-foot spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, bikes, kayaks, sailboats and other watercraft for the guests’ enjoyment.

For those wanting to own a piece of the Grand Hotel, Colony at the Grand offers upscale condominium options overlooking Mobile Bay and the Azalea golf course. For more on the Colony, visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama www.rsabattlehouse.com
www.facebook.com/battlehouse
www.twitter.com/battlehouse

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970’s, the Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. The Battle House reopened in May 2007 and has been named as one of the “Top 500 Hotels in the World” by *Travel + Leisure* in 2009. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The hotel has also been named one of *National Geographic Traveler’s* “Top Places to Stay” in North America and was named a favorite by *Coastal Living*.

The 238 gracious guest rooms, new spa and historic lobby, restaurant and ballrooms make Battle House the perfect urban retreat for business and leisure guests with an affinity for the finer things in life. The hotel has 35,000 square feet of meeting space and is connected to RSA Battle House Tower. On New Year’s Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration.

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissanceriverview.com
www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza
www.twitter.com/riverviewplaza

A prime downtown location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Riverview Plaza a favorite for business guests. Renaissance Riverview Plaza, a Four Diamond Hotel, also is a short walk from the city’s Carnival Museum, the Museum of Mobile and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which also features blockbuster exhibitions.

Having undergone a \$50 million renovation, the 374 plush guest rooms are as popular as the hotel’s spectacular views of Mobile Bay. The Harbor Room restaurant features exceptional seafood and steaks. Riverview Plaza features 32,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet and exhibit space. Mobile is the home of the country’s original Mardi Gras, and parades pass in front of the Renaissance Riverview Plaza during Carnival season.

Guests at all three Mobile Bay resorts have easy access to great golf at RTJ’s Magnolia Grove. Creeks, marshlands and lakes add to the challenge of Mobile’s Magnolia Grove. The Falls, Crossings and Short courses have all received national recognition from various golf publications and host an LPGA tournament in spring.

CENTRAL ALABAMA AND MONTGOMERY REGION

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama www.renaissancemontgomery.com
www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel
www.twitter.com/renaissancemgm

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center opened in February 2008 and brings Alabama’s capital city a great cultural, culinary and corporate hub. The hotel features 346 luxurious rooms and suites, several restaurants and bars and a European-style spa. Located near the Alabama River, Renaissance Montgomery is a part of the city’s downtown revitalization. For concerts, plays and general entertainment, the hotel’s 1,800-seat performing arts centre is quickly becoming the city’s social hot spot. ...»

Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 142,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from the Capitol Hill site on the RTJ Trail.

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama www.marriottcapitolhill.com

www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill

www.twitter.com/marriottcaphill

Minutes from downtown Montgomery and near the Bass Pro Shop, the Marriott hotel's 95 guest rooms were completely renovated in 2009. Seventy-four spacious guest rooms are located in the main lodge. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups.

Also renovated in 2009, the 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden and a private heliport. All guest rooms at the hotel feature flat screen televisions and high-speed internet access. Executive parlors and suites are available. Luxurious bedding with down comforters and custom duvets were added in 2009.

The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. Named the #2 site for public golf in the country by *Golf World* readers, this RTJ site hosts the Navistar LPGA Classic tournament in September.

The Marriott's Oak Tavern offers dining with an extraordinary view overlooking the 17th Fairway of the Senator Course. Indoor and outdoor dining options are available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hotel features 15,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, a new ballroom and pre-function area and a covered terrace.

For recreation the hotel features an outdoor pool and whirlpool, a fitness center, and tennis and volleyball courts.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama www.marriottgrandnational.com

www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational

www.twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

Named the #1 location for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, it is easy to see why *U.S. News & World Report* named Auburn/Opelika one of the top places to retire for golf lovers. This location offers both a great hotel and an upscale residential option.

Situated just 10 minutes from Auburn University, in the quaint historic town of Opelika, the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National offers the finest, most luxurious accommodations in the area. This nationally renowned retreat is the region's premier golf destination and lakeside resort with 54 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf. The majority of guest rooms in this luxury hotel and resort overlook Grand National's golf course and Lake Saugahatchee. The hotel has 114 guest rooms and 15 luxury suites.

Renovated in 2006, this hotel has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center and a 96-seat amphitheater. For golfers wanting to move to the area, National Village offers upscale homes and cottages adjacent to Grand National. From a primary residence to second homes, National Village has great options and golf waiting for you. For more on this upscale Trail residential option, visit www.nationalvillage.com.

NORTH ALABAMA AND BIRMINGHAM REGION

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Birmingham, Alabama www.rossbridgeresort.com

www.facebook.com/rossbridgeresort

www.twitter.com/rossbridgehotel

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. Ross Bridge was named One of the "Top 75 Golf Resorts in North America" by *Golf Digest*. In 2012 and 2008, *Travel + Leisure* named Ross Bridge "One of the Top 500 Hotels in the World." This Four Diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking the fourth longest golf course in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. The resort also has 11 spacious suites for an extra level of comfort and indulgence. Between Ross Bridge and nearby Oxmoor Valley, golfers have access to 54 holes of golf at this luxury resort.

Ross Bridge is the host hotel for the Porsche Sport Driving School and offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa. Caviar facials, a couple's treatment room and hot stone massages are signature treatments in the spa. *BestSpasUSA* has named Ross Bridge as one of their top spas.

The resort has multiple restaurants including fine dining with a Mediterranean influence in Brock's. The Clubhouse was named one of *Golf Digest's* "Favorite 19th Holes." For meetings or special events, Ross Bridge has 20,000 square feet of function space ranging from a large ballroom to a smaller, distinctive boardroom. The resort consistently remains among the top Renaissance hotels in the world for guest satisfaction and overall style.

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Florence, Alabama www.marriottshoals.com

www.facebook.com/marriottshoals

www.twitter.com/marriottshoals

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, Alabama, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be the Marriott leader for exceptional golf, hotel rooms, pools and guest satisfaction. The 200 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and riverfront views. The resort features Alabama's only revolving restaurant and more than 30,000 square feet of versatile meeting space. The hotel's spa is one of Marriott's top 10 internationally for guest satisfaction.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses — Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster. The Fighting Joe was named among the top 10 new courses by *Golf Magazine* and *Travel + Leisure* Golf. The Schoolmaster course opened in 2005 and approaches 8,000 yards. In addition to great golf, the Shoals area is internationally known for two things: bass fishing and a rich musical heritage.

Swamper's Bar and Grill celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Little Richard, Rolling Stones, Cher and others recorded in the Shoals and the area still has many songwriters and recording studios. Lounge by the outdoor firepits and listen to some of the Shoals most promising local artists. Live entertainment performs nightly. For upscale dining, the revolving 360 tower restaurant offers remarkable cuisine and amazing views of the Tennessee River. The 6,000-square-foot European-style spa and salon helps make the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa the premier resort in the Tennessee River Valley. ■



Clockwise from left: Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill; Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National; The Clubhouse restaurant at Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa; Swamper's Bar & Grill at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa.





MOVING » DRAWN FORWARD

RTJ GOLF TRAIL COMMUNITIES ENTER SECOND PHASES

In many locations, the real estate market is colder than Siberia. Fortunately, the two golfing communities on the Trail are bucking this trend. Both National Village in Opelika and Colony at the Grand in Fairhope are selling well and entering their second phases of development.

“All of the golf cottages are sold at National Village, which bucks the national real estate trends,” said Margi Ingram of Ingram & Associates. “More than 50 homes in National Village have been sold and only 11 left on the market, as of November 1, 2011. In Fairhope, those seeking residential options at Colony at the Grand can reserve a new single family home under construction with delivery in 2012 or purchase an existing condominium in Bayview. Both residences offer different lifestyles, and we are pleased to offer each. Half of the single family homes in The Watershed have already been reserved.”

Left: Second phase rendering for National Village's newest development, Eagle Bend.



National Village and Colony at the Grand are the Trail's first introduction into building golf communities. "While each customer is different, they are all looking for quality, value, location and amenities," said Ingram. "Both National Village and Colony at the Grand overlook RTJ golf courses which are known for quality and value. Colony at the Grand added a magnificent pool and tennis complex in 2009 which has been very popular with our residents. A new pool complex adjacent to National Village and the Marriott Auburn/Opelika is scheduled to open in the summer of 2012 which will help create more of a resort feeling," said Ingram. "From developing new homes to adding amenities, we listen to our current owners and potential customers," she said. "Perhaps this is the secret to our success during this soft real estate market."

Located in Opelika adjacent to the Grand National location of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, National Village offers both estate and golf cottages plus easy access to Auburn and its cultural and sporting activities.

If you are more of a coastal person, head south to Fairhope and the shores of Mobile Bay. Colony at the Grand is located near the historic Grand Hotel and Colony at the Grand is just steps from the Azalea and Dogwood golf courses. Shop in Fairhope's fresh markets and pick up some fine wines, then enjoy your fresh catch as the sun sets over Mobile Bay.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offers two residential options for those looking to play the Trail all year long in their primary home or looking to invest in an upscale second residence. Each offers very different experiences. Auburn/Opelika and Fairhope/Point Clear have been praised as some of the top retirement locations in the country. Each area offers great cultural options, unique charm and access to multiple RTJ Golf courses. Your new home is waiting for you on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

COLONY AT THE GRAND » Fairhope/Point Clear, Alabama » www.colonyatthegrand.com

SOME TRADITIONS ONLY GET BETTER AND COLONY AT THE GRAND IS NO EXCEPTION.

Since opening in 1847, The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa has been rich with many traditions. For generations, Grand Hotel guests have found it difficult to leave. Now they can own a part of the Grand's new tradition. The Colony at the Grand offers both single family home and condominium options to spoil you.

Neatly sitting along the third hole of the Azalea Course will be a private, gated collection of 10 uniquely designed homes. Modern and efficient, these three bedroom, two bath homes will define sophisticated, low country southern living in every way. Designed by the celebrated Walcott, Adams, Verneuille team, The Watershed is the fashion in which Point Clear will live in the 21st Century – refined and refreshed.

Featuring 54 units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake on the hotel's historic grounds. Bayview offers a breathtaking panorama at every floor from oak-draped parks and a freshwater lake to the magnificent 36 holes of the Azalea and Dogwood courses of the Lakewood Golf Club.

Amenity-rich living at the Colony Club is centered on an aquatics center, fitness and wellness studio, tennis academy, dining and social areas and a business center. These amenities, together with the Lakewood Golf Club and the Grand Hotel's Spa, offer the residents of the Colony at the Grand a true resort-living experience.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear is legendary. Explore the boutiques, galleries and restaurants of Fairhope or spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. The Fairhope/Point Clear area has gained notice in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the Top 10 places in the U.S. to retire. Perhaps it is time you take a look. Luxury condominium residences are priced from the \$300's, while Watershed homes start in the high \$300's.

» Please call for more information 251.990.9951 or visit us online at www.colonyatthegrand.com.

"From developing new homes to adding amenities, we listen to our current owners and potential customers. Perhaps this is the secret to our success during this soft real estate market."

NATIONAL VILLAGE » Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » www.nationalvillage.com

GOLF. FISH. SWIM. HIKE. LIVE.

National Village skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility plus a 600-acre lake and miles of walking trails. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village adjoins the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National near Auburn and Opelika, Alabama. With all of its original golf cottages sold, 41 new homes are under development at Grand National. Construction of a new saltwater pool with waterfalls, a slide and special color lighting is underway. Future plans call for a series of villages surrounded by open, green spaces overlooking Grand National golf facility and Lake Saugahatchee.

New golf cottages start in the \$180's and offer a great value for golfers and others wanting to live in an upscale golf community. Eleven larger Craftsman style cottages remain with prices beginning in the \$400,000 range. A variety of floor plans ranging from just over 1,200 to nearly 4,000 square feet in size are currently available. From primary residences to second homes, National Village offers great options of luxury living on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National offers award-winning dining and 129 guest rooms. Consider the hotel's fitness center as your personal gym and enjoy both the indoor and outdoor pools. All of these amenities are available to residents at National Village.

The Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by *US News & World Report*. Readers of *Golf World* named Opelika the #1 site for public golf in the country. *Golf Digest* named the RTJ Trail the top value for golf in the country and number eight for quality.

» For more information contact National Village at 334.749.8165 or visit www.nationalvillage.com

Left: The Watershed at Colony at the Grand.

Below: Rendering for the future saltwater pool complex at National Village.





ALABAMA

New works by Nall are hanging in the eight luxury hotels owned by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, joining an extensive collection of “Alabama Art.”



Nall's love for the beautiful camellias of his home state of Alabama and his admiration for porcelain prompted visits to Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Mobile, Alabama. What followed is Nall's “Bellingrath Collection” of watercolors, giclée prints and porcelains.

This collection of six camellias were painted in watercolors by the artist Nall, an idea sparked by his dear friend Elmore Inscow, herself a Bellingrath. Hand painted giclée prints are available in four sizes, like the ‘Dancing Camellia’ shown here. The prestigious Royal Limoges Porcelain Company of France produced a set of the six camellias as collector's plates. A contemporary splashing of gold sets off Nall's rich colors, and each plate and giclée print is signed by Nall. Both the giclées and the porcelain plates may be ordered separately or as a whole collection. A complete line of porcelain will be available in the spring of 2012, and may be ordered through the artist.

The “Alabama Art” collection features works curated by Nall, a native of Alabama who also exhibits in Europe, as well as artists from around the state. The works hanging in the hotels range from primitive, outsider art pieces to intricate mosaics and oils to photography.

Nall has long supported an art renaissance in Alabama in an effort to explore the state's artistic excellence. He has been awarded the University of Alabama Image Award and the Governor's Most Distinguished Artist Award. He spearheaded the relationship between Montgomery, Alabama, and Pietrasanta, Italy, where his bronze work, “Peace Frame” is installed as the gateway to the city. Prince Albert II of Monaco said “Nall has been such a fine cultural ambassador for his native land with the Alabama Art Exhibit.” His book, “Alabama Art,” won an award as “Best Art Book” in the Southeastern United States. ■

For more information on Nall and Alabama Art, visit www.nallart.com. Many of the pieces on display are available for purchase by contacting nall@nallart.com or by writing PO Box 1343, Fairhope, Alabama 36533.

ARTISTS WITH WORKS HANGING IN RSA'S ALABAMA HOTELS AND RESORTS INCLUDE: *Judith Amanda, Jennifer Antoline, Margaret Barber, Ann Mottershead Betak, Sloane Bibb, Sue Blackshear, Julia Bradshaw, Neal Brantley, Kyle Braund, Edward Brummel, Nan Cunningham, Mike Handley, Marty Hoerr, J J Gaudel, Sybil Gibson, Sarita Gish, Jim Gunter, Anton Haardt, Amber Hall, Baba Hendricks, Carrie Johnson, Robert Harold Johnston III, Christy Rhodes Kirk, Charlie Lucas, Betty Sue Matthews, Jim Morris, Maya Morland, Christopher Moses, Haardt Moses, Donna Pickens, Tigjo Price, Barbara Reed, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad & Janice Ross, Jayne Rushin, Michael Simpson, David M. Spears, George Taylor, Les Thompson, Langley Tolbert, Melissa Tubbs, Mary Catherine Watson and Dave Willmart.*

Xander Booker, Chip Cooper, Russell Goodloe, Nancy Goodman, Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, Stacey Howell, Robert Johnston, Ryan Clifford Keller, Mary Riser Kennedy, Bruce Larsen, Linda Ledet, Charlie Lucas, Michael Mastro, Betty Sue Matthews, Herbert “Mannie” Pair, Heather Pettersen, Joan White-Spunner, Lynda Smith Touart, Bradley Robertson, Stephen Savage, Kate Seawell, Susan Starr, Steve Strickland, Les Thompson, Annie Tolliver, Susan Downing White, Devlin Wilson and Robert Zimmerman.

Artists Paul Looney, Ann Morland, Kate Seawell, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, and Yvonne Wells also have works on consignment in the Renaissance Montgomery. Deceased artists in permanent collection include: Steve Skidmore, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Mose T and Flemming Tyler Wilson.

A VISITOR'S GUIDE *to the* TRAIL



Above: Magnolia Grove, Crossings Course, No. 8

Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites around Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

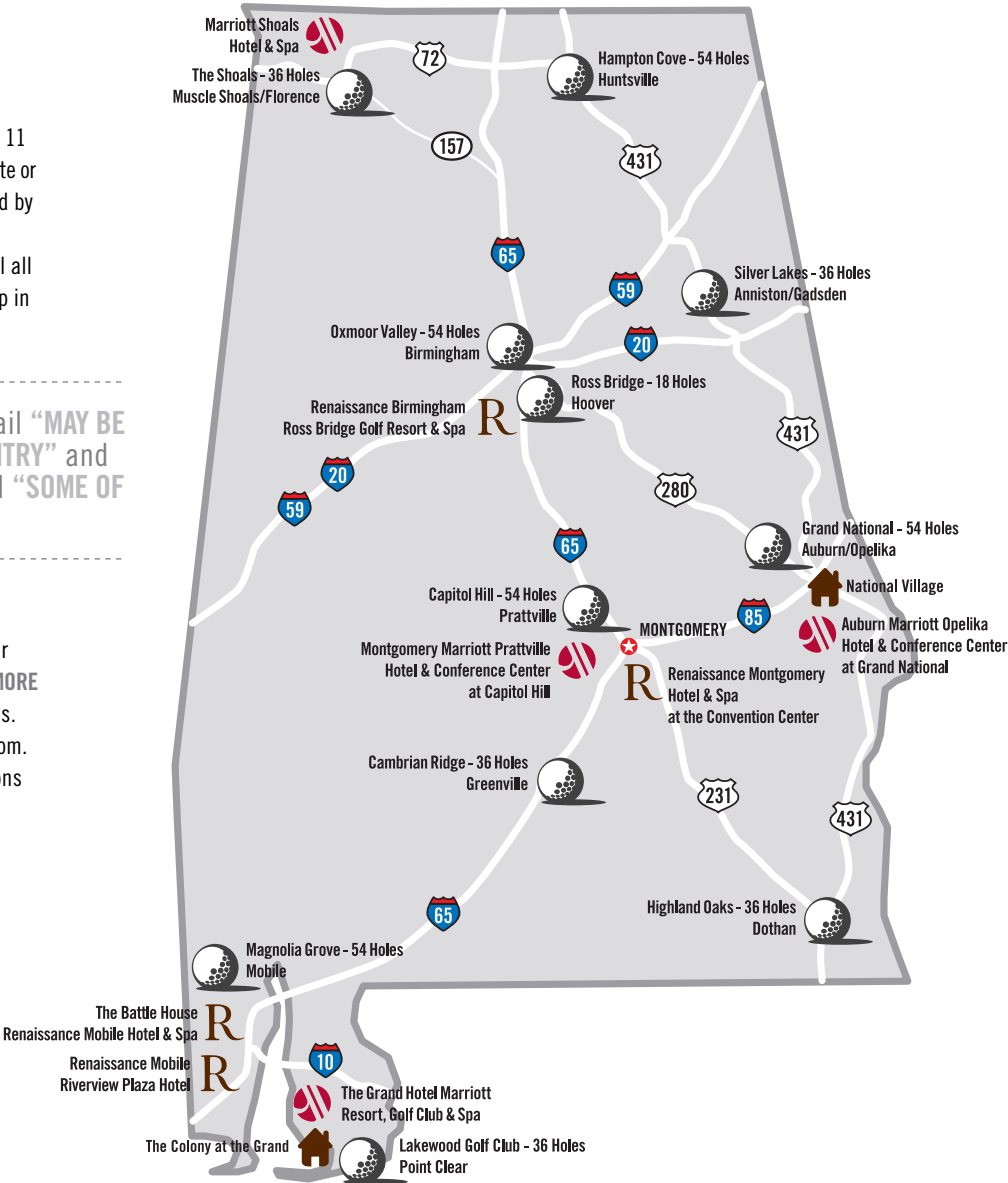
The eight Resort Collection hotels on the Trail all fly the Marriott or Renaissance flags and are top in their class for luxury, golf and spa experiences.

The Wall Street Journal said the Trail “MAY BE THE BIGGEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY” and The New York Times called the Trail “SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH.”

Please use the map and the mileage chart on this page for guidance or contact any of our Reservations Specialists at 800.949.4444 FOR MORE INFORMATION or for tee times and reservations.

You may also visit us online at www.rtgolf.com. Click on Reservations, then on Driving Directions and Information for maps and more detailed information. ■

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MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAPITOL HILL	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	MAGNOLIA GROVE	LAKEWOOD G.C.	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAPITOL HILL	—	57	78	193	114	183	185	86	85	155	212
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	57	—	114	245	99	137	139	138	137	207	264
GRAND NATIONAL	78	114	—	189	131	240	242	121	120	112	242
HAMPTON COVE	193	245	189	—	310	372	374	122	123	81	77
HIGHLAND OAKS	114	99	131	310	—	201	217	201	200	233	328
MAGNOLIA GROVE	183	137	240	372	201	—	39	264	263	333	364
LAKEWOOD G.C.	185	139	242	374	217	39	—	284	283	353	384
OXMOOR VALLEY	86	138	121	122	201	264	284	—	2	88	140
ROSS BRIDGE	85	137	120	123	200	263	283	2	—	89	141
SILVER LAKES	155	207	112	81	233	333	353	88	89	—	135
SHOALS	212	264	242	77	328	364	384	140	141	135	—



THE SHOALS

FLORENCE/MUSCLE SHOALS · 36 HOLES

The Fighting Joe course at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals opened August 2004 and was the first Trail course to break 8,000, measuring some 8,092 yards from the black tees.

It's long, really long, and this links style course is simply good, straight-forward golf. You can see where you're going. The question is...can you get there?

Some say the spectacular 17th hole is the signature hole on the course, but the 18th green overlooking Wilson Lake on the Tennessee River will distract you with its beauty, if not its treachery. *Travel + Leisure Golf* has named Fighting Joe one of the top new courses in 2004 for good reason. Long-hitters here will experience a test of champions; but from the correct tee box, all players will enjoy world-class golf.

The second course, The Schoolmaster (named for President Woodrow Wilson who was responsible for getting Wilson Dam built on the River and who was known as The Schoolmaster of Politics) opened in the Summer of 2005.

This tree lined course is more traditional golf with every hole in keeping with the natural topography along the Tennessee River. It is wooded, rolling and spectacular.

First reports indicate The Schoolmaster may be a tougher course than Fighting Joe, but only time will tell. One thing's for sure, it's a shot maker's golf course with narrower fairways, tree-lined greens, and still a length of nearly 8,000 yards!

It's hard to beat the beauty that hole #18 holds on the high bluffs over the river, but the waterfall on hole #2 sure comes close. Make sure you've done your homework well, for The Schoolmaster will certainly test all of your skills. ■

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FIGHTING JOE COURSE

Black 8,092/78.7/138; Purple 7,126/74.0/135; Orange 6,628/71.5/130; White 6,154/69.3/123; Teal 4,978/69.0/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	611	466	478	426	236	497	607	477	236
PURPLE	567	413	416	360	193	468	537	406	190
ORANGE	540	388	396	326	175	432	524	375	157
WHITE	512	370	373	313	160	408	467	332	145
TEAL	394	302	320	279	137	325	408	283	101
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	489	413	716	223	476	466	483	592	200
PURPLE	460	371	622	184	417	397	437	537	151
ORANGE	428	345	581	163	403	352	423	483	137
WHITE	412	332	498	153	369	326	385	473	126
TEAL	256	310	441	136	244	260	304	377	101
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3

SCHOOLMASTER COURSE

Black 7,971/78.0/143; Purple 7,294/74.7/134; Orange 6,778/72.2/128; White 6,160/69.1/124; Teal 5,249/70.3/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	453	238	477	632	472	265	459	509	681
PURPLE	421	196	450	568	452	231	400	445	645
ORANGE	382	178	421	549	409	208	366	406	604
WHITE	337	135	393	504	373	178	339	369	562
TEAL	311	131	337	478	315	158	268	325	488
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	226	589	618	455	417	447	197	443	393
PURPLE	202	559	568	424	390	414	157	409	363
ORANGE	168	521	527	402	368	395	146	390	338
WHITE	147	489	501	353	333	347	135	347	318
TEAL	122	381	479	307	265	267	101	283	233
PAR	3	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4

HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 7,428/76.0/132; Orange 6,806/69.9/123; White 6,070/69.9/123; Ladies' Teal 4,951; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	409	403	550	215	412	435	453	238	526
ORANGE	394	372	518	183	378	406	424	190	511
WHITE	372	330	452	165	334	381	387	158	444
TEAL	309	303	377	94	273	336	318	94	361
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	461	206	435	415	414	539	259	621	437
ORANGE	434	177	347	391	382	520	211	570	398
WHITE	371	154	308	336	342	470	161	541	364
TEAL	257	108	265	319	298	390	101	475	304
PAR	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	5	4

RIVER COURSE

Purple 7,668/77.8/136; Orange 6,764/72.8/134; White 6,111/69.7/128; Ladies' Teal 5,278/70.4/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	556	207	467	447	476	214	433	627	438
ORANGE	505	186	404	375	388	196	393	566	394
WHITE	463	165	347	342	350	158	360	540	348
TEAL	431	135	267	299	285	135	305	499	318
PAR	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	572	437	454	421	208	600	187	451	473
ORANGE	535	398	418	382	186	519	176	378	365
WHITE	486	353	379	314	165	494	163	350	334
TEAL	428	293	340	276	112	426	132	314	283
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,635; Orange 3,007; White 2,480; Teal 1,861; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	192	184	222	149	201	257	190	215	199
ORANGE	161	167	189	110	182	184	175	173	153
WHITE	124	152	154	95	149	145	144	145	128
TEAL	83	109	72	78	83	109	114	126	111
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	177	193	184	222	205	247	159	232	207
ORANGE	161	152	174	185	170	184	143	168	176
WHITE	115	131	144	156	143	137	115	151	152
TEAL	98	83	124	105	115	95	85	128	143
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



HUNTSVILLE · 54 HOLES

HAMPTON COVE

The Northern gateway to the Trail is Hampton Cove in Huntsville, a 54-hole facility with terrain that drastically changes from one side of the property to the other.

Renovated in 2008, the Highlands Course has been restored back to its original Scottish Links design. Long waving grasses frame beautiful rolling terrain and creates beautiful golf holes. The finishing holes on the Highlands Course are among the most scenic and challenging on the Trail. One of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail is the old mule barn beside the fifth hole. Completely opposite in design is the River Course, the only Robert Trent Jones layout without a single bunker. The River Course is laid out on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River. The River Course is a throwback to the way courses were built long ago, where dirt was merely pushed up to create the greens and tees, leaving all else, including massive oak trees, as is. With water on 16 of the 18 holes, the River Course will challenge your shot making ability.

The Short Course at Hampton Cove is open and links-like, with water in play on 11 holes and a large double green accommodating the 10th and 17th greens. The Short Course is a great venue for golfers of all skill levels and alternating tees allow golfers to hit every club in their bag! ■

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SILVER LAKES

ANNISTON/GADSDEN · 36 HOLES

Located in Northeast Alabama, between Anniston and Gadsden, Silver Lakes is set on rolling terrain with stunning views of the surrounding Appalachian foothills. Following the April 2011 devastating EF-4 Tornado, which ravaged the golf course and the surrounding communities, Silver Lakes received extensive renovations and has taken on a new look. Silver Lakes re-opened in September 2011 with spectacular views of the Appalachian Foothills, Lee’s Lake and the original Trail clubhouse. It also boasts 36 holes of newly renovated Champion ultra dwarf putting surfaces, arguably the best on the Trail. Silver Lakes features the most unique and aptly named nines on the Trail. The Heartbreaker provides three of the best finishing holes. Number 7, 8 and 9 take you from the highest elevation on the property to the lowest, while the Backbreaker features wide fairways, demanding greens and spectacular views. The Mindbreaker is aptly named as a variety of uphill and downhill approaches will have you second guessing your shot decisions throughout the round. The Short Course provides a relaxing trip around Lee’s Lake and offers an array of yardages to suit your game. The views are magnificent with a waterfall nestled next to the sixth green. ■

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MINDBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,642/37.7/151; Purple 3,432/36.8/146; Orange 3,199/35.9/146; White 3,010/35.0/136;

Teal 2,376/32.1/105; Ladies' White 38.3/149; Ladies' Teal 33.9/117; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	546	226	408	207	556	434	420	454	391
PURPLE	546	177	361	189	531	408	406	423	391
ORANGE	505	165	345	180	515	389	362	387	351
WHITE	475	157	345	169	492	370	320	358	324
TEAL	403	96	296	123	376	279	280	317	206
PAR	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4

HEARTBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,814/37.7/140; Purple 3,480/36.7/133; Orange 3,290/35.9/128; White 3,011/34.6/125;

Teal 2,474/32.5/109; Ladies' White 37.5/142; Ladies' Teal 34.5/120; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	568	466	455	431	215	452	550	229	448
PURPLE	532	414	427	404	174	412	521	198	398
ORANGE	481	375	402	404	165	394	506	165	398
WHITE	481	335	381	357	136	343	479	146	353
TEAL	431	290	329	312	109	301	375	67	260
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4

BACKBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,808/38.5/143; Purple 3,537/37.7/140; Orange 3,198/35.9/128; White 2,992/34.5/127;

Teal 2,369/32.0/113; Ladies' White 38.0/148; Ladies' Teal 34.9/126; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	455	206	455	458	231	401	623	445	534
PURPLE	426	159	425	451	194	371	578	399	534
ORANGE	406	143	399	400	167	346	496	342	499
WHITE	360	132	350	355	129	346	496	342	482
TEAL	293	92	294	292	99	212	369	287	431
PAR	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,946; Orange 1,450; White 1,276; Teal 798; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	232	192	225	236	199	254	186	211	211
ORANGE	137	155	166	171	160	167	170	169	155
WHITE	123	133	146	156	130	138	147	150	153
TEAL	90	81	100	94	99	94	94	85	61
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

RIDGE COURSE

Purple 7,055/73.5/140; Orange 6,527/71.6/136; White 6,148/70.1/133;

Teal 4,974/69.1/122; Ladies' Teal 70.2/130; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	449	528	539	389	179	447	379	176	421
ORANGE	404	513	520	382	146	405	346	159	384
WHITE	364	500	506	356	123	389	317	129	393
TEAL	297	458	451	286	85	291	232	77	227
PAR	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	414	446	483	189	389	390	205	440	592
ORANGE	379	393	465	162	348	366	172	411	572
WHITE	361	373	440	137	333	353	165	396	543
TEAL	279	305	410	92	251	321	145	304	463
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	5

VALLEY COURSE

Purple 7,149/74.6/130; Orange 6,590/71.3/127; White 6,027/68.7/118;

Teal 4,924/69.4/122; Ladies' Teal 68.3/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	440	204	435	188	415	400	564	433	561
ORANGE	415	174	391	171	375	369	509	396	541
WHITE	393	153	363	145	327	334	475	358	513
TEAL	367	100	285	109	265	290	401	268	428
PAR	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	475	363	506	207	552	407	178	400	441
ORANGE	420	322	504	177	527	381	165	359	393
WHITE	393	279	490	147	502	335	120	337	363
TEAL	284	229	461	107	441	295	81	302	210
PAR	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,360; Orange 3,037; White 2,556; Teal 1,871; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	170	224	203	208	135	155	163	204	161
ORANGE	152	206	183	185	126	147	150	188	130
WHITE	122	195	138	142	113	139	131	170	119
TEAL	79	141	103	108	98	93	103	144	103
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	195	215	182	137	253	211	192	174	178
ORANGE	179	191	154	135	225	192	160	164	170
WHITE	166	158	144	127	141	153	137	129	132
TEAL	69	114	95	124	123	91	124	83	76
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



This 54-hole facility was built on former mining land owned by U.S. Steel. Sculpted from the peaks and valleys of the Appalachians, the courses offer scenic forests, numerous creeks and challenging elevation changes. The Ridge Course, with its roller coaster fairways, heavy tree cover, and precipitous 150-foot elevation changes, is incredibly photogenic. As a reminder of the site’s former use, the green at the par-five 3rd is buttressed by a shelf of exposed shale rock.

The Valley Course is dotted with picturesque lakes, beautiful rolling fairways, and stretches two miles downrange along a slender valley. The 18th hole, a 441-yard par-4, nicknamed “The Assassin,” rises to a dramatic finish at the signature clubhouse just above the green. The Short Course at Oxmoor Valley is a delightful collection of 18 pure one-shotters which offer severe elevation changes and almost every hole plays downhill. The Short Course is listed by *Golf Digest’s Places to Play* as one of the nation’s Great Value courses in the public category. ■

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BIRMINGHAM · 54 HOLES

OXMOOR VALLEY



ROSS BRIDGE

HOOPER - 18 HOLES

Alabama welcomes the newest addition to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Ross Bridge. Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, these 18 holes will challenge even the best golfers. Named one of *Zagat's* top new courses, Ross Bridge has hosted the Regions Charity Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259 room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Ross Bridge is the fourth longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland style course, ten holes play along the banks of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the ninth and eighteenth greens. A gristmill added to the waterfall reflects the history of this old mining site. The beauty and challenge of each hole leads many to believe there is not one signature hole but possibly eighteen.

Like many other Trail courses, the par-three holes are incredible. Considerable elevation changes combine with water or other natural obstructions to get your attention. Large putting surfaces provide many tempting pin locations that will test golfers' approach shots.

Number 17, a long par four, plays to a small, well guarded green. Water frames the right side of this down-sloping hole. In the background is a picturesque view of the ninth and eighteenth holes with the waterfall tumbling between. The seventh hole offers a par five that traverses a ridge high above the rest of the course. The ninth will leave you speechless as it is time to decide how daring you are off the tee. A split fairway allows for either a short challenging route along the water's edge or opt for safer play leaving a longer, more difficult approach to the green. Regardless if it is a par-three, four or five, Ross Bridge stands ready for your game! ■

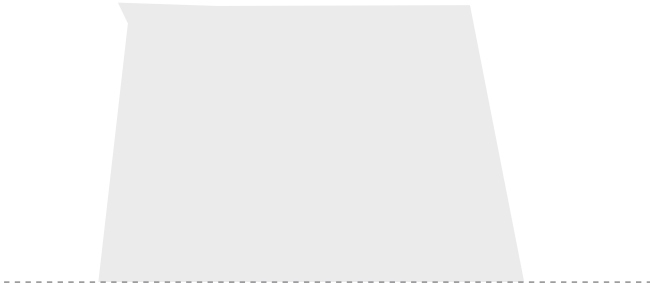
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ROSS BRIDGE COURSE

Black 8,191/78.5/135; Purple 7,446/74.9/127; Orange 6,783/71.3/118; White 6,200/68.7/117; Teal 5,312/70.2/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	620	467	470	226	469	207	619	502	518
PURPLE	573	430	445	202	417	194	561	447	410
ORANGE	543	395	422	155	380	185	519	408	377
WHITE	511	322	392	146	337	174	484	376	341
TEAL	463	278	366	140	303	110	458	311	285
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	477	208	454	698	239	458	571	501	487
PURPLE	454	184	429	614	219	415	538	467	447
ORANGE	417	167	408	540	176	366	511	411	403
WHITE	387	133	357	519	163	341	477	382	358
TEAL	273	120	326	403	130	293	410	334	309
PAR	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	4



FOR MAPS & MORE DETAILED INFORMATION on all Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail sites, go to rtjgolf.com. Click on Reservations, then on Driving Directions and Information.



LAKE COURSE

Purple 7,149/74.3/136; Orange 6,488/71.3/126; White 5,948/68.7/117; Teal 4,910/68.7/117; Ladies' White 74.4/133; Ladies' Teal 68.0/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	380	428	197	527	423	442	557	213	411
ORANGE	364	381	178	480	396	381	521	182	379
WHITE	319	361	168	447	385	352	477	148	339
TEAL	285	308	92	399	308	295	418	103	276
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	434	445	522	427	545	230	334	205	429
ORANGE	397	387	493	388	510	182	297	174	398
WHITE	353	356	459	361	488	160	285	143	357
TEAL	276	239	391	343	384	93	247	126	327
PAR	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	4

LINKS COURSE

Purple 7,311/75.1/135; Orange 6,574/72.3/129; White 6,015/69.6/119; Teal 4,843/69.6/113; Ladies' White 75.5/139; Ladies' Teal 70.4/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	423	556	206	425	456	544	472	345	204
ORANGE	396	509	182	409	375	499	446	319	170
WHITE	366	470	165	384	342	460	409	299	133
TEAL	313	385	110	262	275	412	318	234	119
PAR	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	363	260	575	418	467	516	181	429	471
ORANGE	326	195	500	378	422	467	152	402	427
WHITE	289	151	493	343	372	451	118	368	402
TEAL	242	69	426	272	338	362	93	312	301
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,328; Orange 2,798; White 2,476; Teal 1,715; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	188	201	171	173	187	173	152	216	250
ORANGE	170	166	151	152	147	137	119	193	234
WHITE	148	148	128	131	124	137	119	174	211
TEAL	93	106	83	92	102	97	89	119	71
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	161	187	231	185	138	204	202	155	154
ORANGE	131	172	179	151	108	184	173	110	121
WHITE	108	139	179	98	104	156	156	110	106
TEAL	85	95	119	58	72	143	108	77	106
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



The Links Course was named by *Golf Digest* as the 2nd best new public course in America in 1993. The Lake Course was named by *Golf Digest* as the 4th best new public course in America in 1993, and both courses were in the top 10 of *Golf Digest's* list of "America's Top 50 Affordable Courses". The three courses at Grand National are also listed among the nation's 40 Super Value courses by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play". Grand National, by all reports, was the single greatest site for a golf complex Robert Trent Jones, Sr. had ever seen. Built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, 32 of the 54 holes drape along its filigreed shores.

The cornerstone of the complex is the Links Course, which is without a single weakness. The par-four 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole on the Trail. The drive must carry a corner of the lake, while the approach is played to a shallow pedestal green shored up by boulders. With 12 holes hugging the shore, Grand National's Lake Course is every bit as scenic as the Links. Not only is the quartet of par-threes on the Lake Course as good as any in the nation, the 230-yard, island green 15th may be the single prettiest hole on the Trail. The Short Course, while overshadowed by the two main tracts, is a thing of beauty, with more than half the holes touching the lake. This 18-hole course of one-shotters might be the finest anywhere in the country.

National Village, a golfing community on the Trail, is adjacent to these courses and the Marriott Hotel. ■

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AUBURN/OPELIKA · 54 HOLES

GRAND NATIONAL



CAPITOL HILL

PRATTVILLE • 54 HOLES

Named the number 2 public golf site in the country by *Golf World* readers, Capitol Hill in Prattville continues to get praises from golfers and golf writers alike. *Golf* magazine called The Judge Course one of the 10 public courses in America worthy of hosting the U.S. Open and the *Zagat* Survey of America's Top Golf Courses ranked it among the top 50 courses in America. The Senator was named among the Top 10 New Courses in the nation by *Golf* magazine and is showcased in September during the Navistar LPGA Classic presented by MaxxForce. Located in Prattville, approximately 13 miles north of Alabama's state capitol, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses. With more than 1500 acres of golf and nature, the pure magnitude of this facility is amazing and allows each course to be drastically different from the others.

The Senator, a Scottish-Links style course with beautifully manicured bent grass greens, holds over 160 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, cleverly hiding the cart path or any other hole from the fairway. The secluded settings of each hole will make it feel as if you are the only foursome on the course.

The Legislator, a more traditional course, plays in and out of pine trees and along the bluff. The view riding down the “Sky Bridge” for six holes laid out in a native cypress swamp will impress as you are led back up the bluff to finish the course at the spectacular clubhouse.

The Judge offers stunning vistas alongside the 200 acre glistening backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the Alabama River and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a stunning bulkhead island green, the Judge is described as simply magnificent.

Capitol Hill also features an innovative circular driving range 400 yards in diameter. ■

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LEGISLATOR COURSE

Black 7,477/76.9/149; Purple 6,836/74.0/143; Orange 6,366/71.4/139; White 5,901/69.4/131;

Teal 5,253/66.1/117; Ladies' White 74.3/133; Ladies' Teal 70.4/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	631	434	177	481	603	198	425	488	420
PURPLE	554	404	163	421	577	174	401	429	405
ORANGE	541	366	147	391	509	151	375	405	366
WHITE	490	330	136	355	490	137	361	374	338
TEAL	435	310	115	325	426	115	297	347	311
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	412	207	387	538	478	407	182	585	424
PURPLE	369	170	367	504	434	364	160	552	388
ORANGE	350	148	348	494	407	343	148	512	365
WHITE	337	126	331	467	382	313	124	480	330
TEAL	245	105	302	451	343	270	110	451	295
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	5	4

SENATOR COURSE

Black 7,654/77.4/132; Purple 6,941/74.1/125; Orange 6,410/70.9/126; White 5,831/68.1/121;

Teal 5,137/64.7/110; Ladies' White 73.6/123; Ladies' Teal 69.6/116; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	427	230	419	426	611	420	231	558	437
PURPLE	395	204	385	390	563	385	195	530	402
ORANGE	365	165	364	363	539	349	167	496	376
WHITE	329	139	322	339	500	326	129	453	343
TEAL	281	121	290	282	442	301	110	393	290
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	616	435	496	203	459	448	222	559	457
PURPLE	543	400	434	169	426	416	181	515	408
ORANGE	528	370	400	154	394	389	147	475	369
WHITE	484	358	374	138	358	334	115	456	334
TEAL	460	317	326	116	333	307	84	376	308
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4

JUDGE COURSE

Black 7,813/78.5/147; Purple 7,082/75.1/142; Orange 6,517/71.7/131; White 5,910/68.7/128;

Teal 4,951/64.7/115; Ladies' White 74.4/137; Ladies' Teal 68.4/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	415	459	187	617	423	229	675	466	430
PURPLE	400	416	166	579	386	190	625	452	387
ORANGE	379	379	155	548	342	148	589	425	362
WHITE	347	350	129	486	326	133	575	396	330
TEAL	296	305	112	402	273	120	351	344	271
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	711	478	231	427	469	552	256	430	358
PURPLE	563	400	215	405	424	529	223	384	338
ORANGE	543	370	179	358	385	500	170	364	321
WHITE	503	340	110	313	371	457	153	327	264
TEAL	421	268	94	261	352	413	126	288	254
PAR	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHERLING COURSE

Purple 3,681/37.4/67; Orange 3,423/36.3/65; White 3,028/34.9/62;

Teal 2,435/33.7/60; Ladies' Teal 34.3/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	568	209	428	184	428	420	437	636	371
ORANGE	531	167	398	169	399	397	412	601	349
WHITE	490	146	365	141	367	324	354	514	327
TEAL	417	91	280	79	224	283	322	460	279
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4

CANYON COURSE

Purple 3,746/38.0/74; Orange 3,490/36.9/72; White 3,058/35.8/70;

Teal 2,422/34.4/68; Ladies' Teal 33.9/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	275	585	444	383	418	522	258	360
ORANGE	477	244	553	421	353	374	499	237	332
WHITE	432	163	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	130	409	297	272	259	336	108	240
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	4

LOBLOLLY COURSE

Purple 3,551/36.6/66; Orange 3,295/35.6/63; White 3,078/34.7/61;

Teal 2,350/33.4/58; Ladies' Teal 33.5/54; Par 35

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	497	421	418	182	418	222	503	447	443
ORANGE	469	397	390	155	413	196	434	423	418
WHITE	457	346	334	136	367	138	369	366	365
TEAL	342	322	249	75	301	112	344	321	284
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,640; Orange 1,415; White 1,116; Teal 745; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	156	187	211	147	173	159	231	185	191
ORANGE	136	155	187	123	142	141	210	162	159
WHITE	118	121	151	79	109	123	123	151	141
TEAL	81	71	94	66	76	75	76	93	113
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



Known by avid golfers as one of the most beautiful and most challenging stops on the Trail, Cambrian Ridge in Greenville lies just 40 miles from Montgomery. It is well worth the ride for any golfer looking for 36 holes of jaw-dropping golf.

Cambrian Ridge was also immortalized on the 2003 Microsoft Golf Game and was the subject of an extensive ad campaign in *Golf Magazine* promoting the game.

This year on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, Cambrian Ridge will host the Annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail.

The Sherling/Canyon combination was named by *Golf Digest* as the 3rd best new public course in America in 1994 and 13th in their list of America's Top 50 Affordable Courses. This combination was also named by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" as one of the nation's 40 Super Value courses. The Loblolly nine, with its gently rolling fairways, cathedral-like pines, and water-fronted greens, exudes a stately, Augusta-like quality. The Canyon nine, carved from former hunting grounds where deer blinds remain nailed to the hard-wood, is a thrilling stretch of target-style golf with hole #1 being a 501-yard par-four that drops 200 feet from tee to fairway.

The Sherling nine may be the best nine on the entire Trail. Drama takes center stage at Sherling's ninth hole which marches straight uphill past a deep ravine strewn with ochre boulders to a lolling tongue of a double green shared with the ninth on the Canyon nine. Above this green is a clubhouse set atop the highest point in the county, its verandah serving up expansive 30-mile views of Southern forest land. The nine-hole Short Course is a marvelous collection of par-three holes laid out beautifully between the ridge and Sherling lake. ■

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HIGHLAND OAKS

DOTHAN · 36 HOLES

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three nine-hole championship courses. The Highlands/ Magnolia combination was named by *Golf Digest* as the 7th best new public course in America in 1994 and 31st in their list of America’s Top 50 Affordable Courses. This combination was also named by *Golf Digest’s* "Places to Play" as one of the nation’s Great Value courses. This 36-hole complex features some of the longest and most classically designed holes on the Trail. Each nine has a different personality. Highlands, the core nine, is relatively open with several lakes in play. The peninsula green at the par-3 sixth has an elusive, beckoning quality.

Marshwood has been made famous (or notorious) by its behemoth par-5 sixth, which stretches to 701 yards from the tips. The 422-yard par-4 ninth, a left to right dogleg, is arguably the best hole at the site and has a tilted green elevated above a swathe of wetlands. The Magnolia nine is well-named: specimen magnolia trees dot the higher ground, which is reached via a 1,000 foot long wooden bridge spanning a marsh filled with lichen-dappled trees. The feature hole is the 416-yard fifth, where a split-level fairway offers an option off the tee. The Short Course, a nine-hole par-3, has demanding bunker placements, three water holes and possibly the best putting Bermuda greens in the South. ■

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HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 3,892/38.6/70; Orange 3,580/37.1/68; White 3,296/35.8/66; Teal 2,554/34.3/63; Ladies’ Teal 35.0/64; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	493	458	457	256	430	206	561	435	596
ORANGE	442	415	437	225	390	178	523	409	561
WHITE	402	371	414	181	362	169	507	365	525
TEAL	367	253	294	115	327	120	339	305	434
PAR	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5

MARSHWOOD COURSE

Purple 3,812/38.3/68; Orange 3,492/36.8/65; White 3,158/35.3/63; Teal 2,531/34.0/60; Ladies’ Teal 34.5/62; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	411	564	406	205	456	701	448	199	422
ORANGE	370	521	364	178	441	660	421	157	380
WHITE	334	483	327	137	418	616	382	113	348
TEAL	276	406	266	114	351	435	287	94	302
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4

MAGNOLIA COURSE

Purple 3,699/37.4/65; Orange 3,404/36.1/62; White 3,090/34.7/59; Teal 2,471/33.3/56; Ladies’ Teal 34.0/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	392	205	577	546	416	480	195	437	451
ORANGE	371	155	545	516	377	441	176	409	414
WHITE	330	110	520	480	352	396	150	373	379
TEAL	252	81	392	413	291	307	111	297	327
PAR	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,809; Orange 1,539; White 1,229; Teal 874; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	199	241	216	172	174	188	232	178	209
ORANGE	164	215	181	149	137	141	197	175	180
WHITE	121	184	133	127	101	113	159	136	155
TEAL	85	108	94	83	73	76	106	113	136
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

CROSSINGS COURSE

Purple 7,212/74.7/134; Orange 6,652/71.6/131; White 6,157/69.2/126; Ladies’ Teal 5,261/69.4/115; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	422	185	385	540	430	528	412	219	406
ORANGE	387	168	347	511	392	500	385	192	381
WHITE	342	135	317	496	378	484	369	163	349
TEAL	275	101	279	478	331	425	314	122	316
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	417	398	421	559	195	423	596	226	450
ORANGE	386	364	392	524	172	400	535	201	415
WHITE	374	334	371	508	157	354	476	168	382
TEAL	348	273	285	430	99	282	425	134	344
PAR	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	4

FALLS COURSE

Purple 7,158/74.6/142; Orange 6,674/71.4/135; White 6,119/69.5/126; Teal 5,049/68.1/124; Ladies’ Teal 70.4/124; Par 71

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	448	195	430	407	582	190	446	417	420
ORANGE	406	179	413	367	522	173	410	393	386
WHITE	370	152	380	345	506	143	390	372	349
TEAL	345	111	308	335	415	91	340	296	279
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	570	206	423	169	444	445	426	388	552
ORANGE	552	188	405	157	398	407	414	373	531
WHITE	523	161	370	137	369	364	351	325	512
TEAL	393	106	324	117	264	328	295	282	420
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,140; Orange 2,734; White 2,279; Teal 1,829; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	174	180	189	215	137	135	190	178	160
ORANGE	160	170	165	189	107	126	152	153	140
WHITE	119	137	124	155	91	100	127	140	126
TEAL	93	102	90	136	71	80	90	110	118
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	173	192	195	205	190	110	192	155	170
ORANGE	151	174	170	175	164	99	161	135	143
WHITE	132	132	142	143	144	85	138	111	133
TEAL	117	108	128	121	103	70	122	80	90
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



The new Magnolia Grove features two recently renovated golf courses. Each championship course received extensive renovations in the past three years. Golfers will find more “player friendly” qualities without compromising the integrity of Robert Trent Jones’ original design.

Magnolia Grove, the most southern location on Alabama’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail was recently named one of the “Top 50 Public Courses” by *Golf World Magazine* readers. The Crossings and Falls courses are also listed in *Golf Digest’s* “Places to Play” as two of the nation’s great value courses and as “America’s Top 50 Affordable Courses.”

The topography at Magnolia Grove features creeks, marshland, and lakes with each of the 54 holes carved through indigenous hardwood and pine. The new Crossings Course, which hosts the LPGA Tour each spring, provides an open parkland type ambiance. Several water features and crushed oyster shell waste areas were added to provide an exciting new look. All 18 greens have been redesigned and planted with the newly acclaimed Mini Verde ultra dwarf Bermuda grass.

The renovated Falls Course reopened in October 2010 as the only par-71 golf course on the Trail. The main tract at Magnolia Grove is characterized by large, liberally contoured Mini Verde greens and massive cloverleaf bunkers. Several holes were entirely redesigned giving the course a brand new look.

Golf Digest named the Short Course at Magnolia Grove as the best par-3 course in America. The Short Course, also recently renovated, features several newly designed greens and all new putting surfaces with the acclaimed Champion ultra dwarf Bermuda grass. Renovations were complete in August 2011. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course. ■

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MAGNOLIA GROVE

LAKEWOOD GOLF CLUB

POINT CLEAR · 36 HOLES

The venerable Dogwood and Azalea courses at The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, have seen a lot in their days. They've hosted President Gerald Ford, Dr. Billy Graham and Bob Hope, to name a few of the more famous players.

They've been through renovations and hurricanes and still remain a showcase for great golf in the South. First built in 1947, the Lakewood Golf Club at The Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks and a dramatic signature hole, the 14th on Azalea. An island green is surrounded by a four-acre lake, which makes your approach shot to this par-5 very demanding. Recently renovated, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of ten water features over the span of the 36 holes as well as other interesting architectural features, golfers are faced with decisions at every corner.

Lakewood's two 18-hole courses alternate openings between Grand Hotel guests and Trail Card Holders, and Lakewood Golf Club members. The varying degree of difficulty promises a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. Where the Dogwood course might seem a tad bit easier, and the Azalea, more of a challenge, both courses can play to your liking depending on your selection of tees. With five sets of tees per hole, your decision should be rather easy.

Funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the renovation of both courses brings them on par with many of the great resort golf courses in the country. Lakewood Golf Club has several times been named to *Golf Magazine's* "Best Golf Resorts in America."

Colony at the Grand, a residential development, overlooks the Azalea course at Lakewood. ■

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AZALEA COURSE

Purple 7,504/75.3/132; Orange 6,759/71.5/126; White 6,112/68.5/117;
Teal 5,431/70.3/116; Red 4,725/67.8/111; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	636	411	420	203	355	572	225	463	470
ORANGE	558	375	400	178	315	520	180	422	385
WHITE	490	345	353	164	288	491	159	379	372
TEAL	455	312	339	145	243	400	148	349	305
RED	410	255	303	77	216	354	120	296	293
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	429	514	448	196	545	195	471	475	476
ORANGE	389	500	398	180	531	147	428	423	430
WHITE	347	460	371	158	472	133	342	386	402
TEAL	344	420	354	117	421	107	289	349	334
RED	302	321	338	107	383	66	273	307	304
PAR	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4

DOGWOOD COURSE

Purple 7,063/72.9/128; Orange 6,521/70.4/126; White 5,885/67.5/115;
Teal 5,267/70.3/122; Red 4,522/66.5/112; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	528	425	214	399	499	426	305	191	398
ORANGE	483	410	174	380	469	415	286	177	361
WHITE	425	375	167	362	442	379	262	155	328
TEAL	385	330	143	344	397	347	236	128	294
RED	335	266	105	239	346	324	221	106	256
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	380	445	548	233	463	454	572	209	374
ORANGE	347	415	521	191	428	424	531	176	333
WHITE	316	367	454	170	355	381	479	157	311
TEAL	296	288	390	154	335	361	408	139	292
RED	267	239	334	130	315	312	382	119	226
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS VODKA.





Nike Golf congratulates The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for 20 years of excellence!